

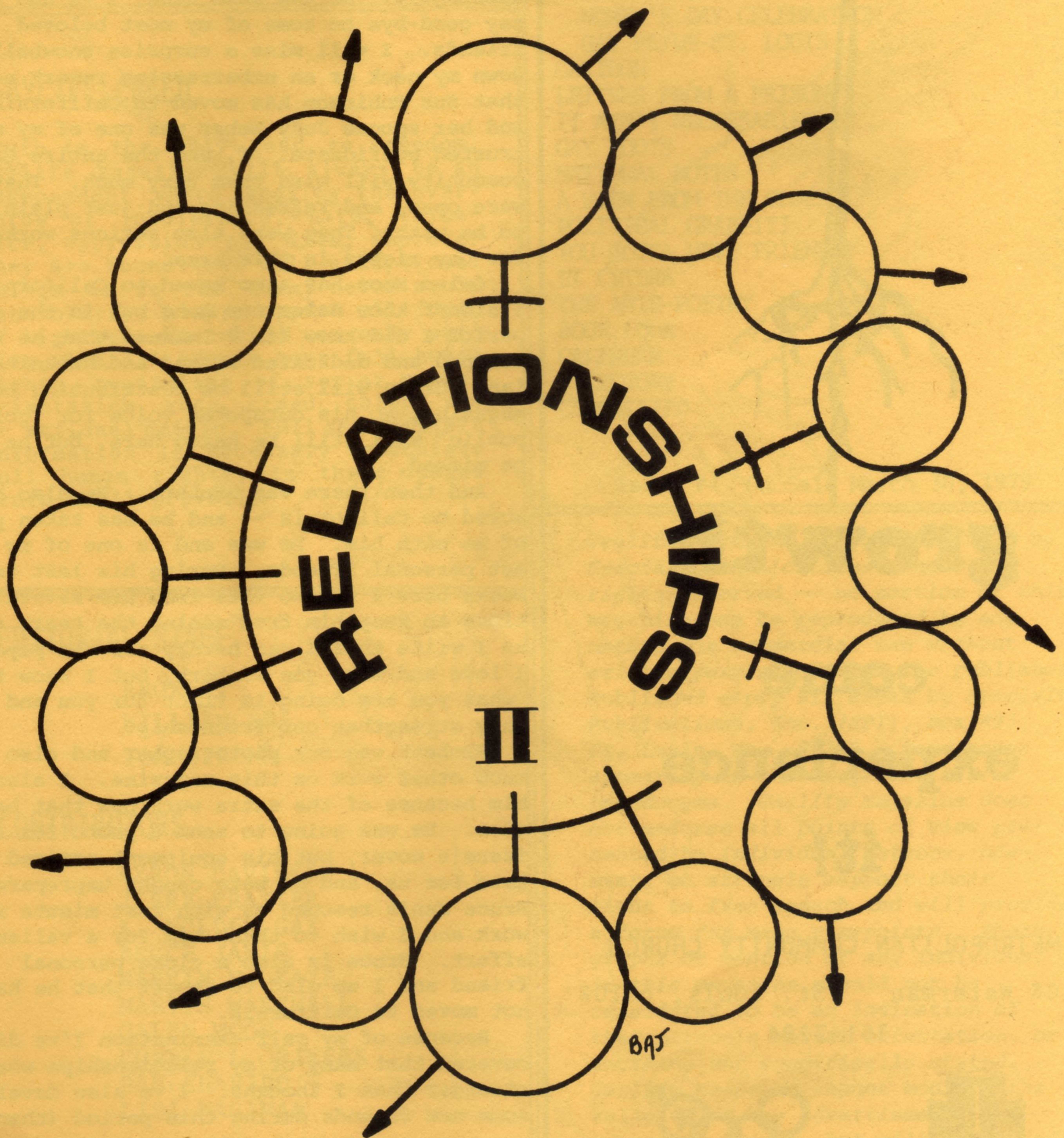
GAYLIFE

MAGAZINE

ISSUE NUMBER 4

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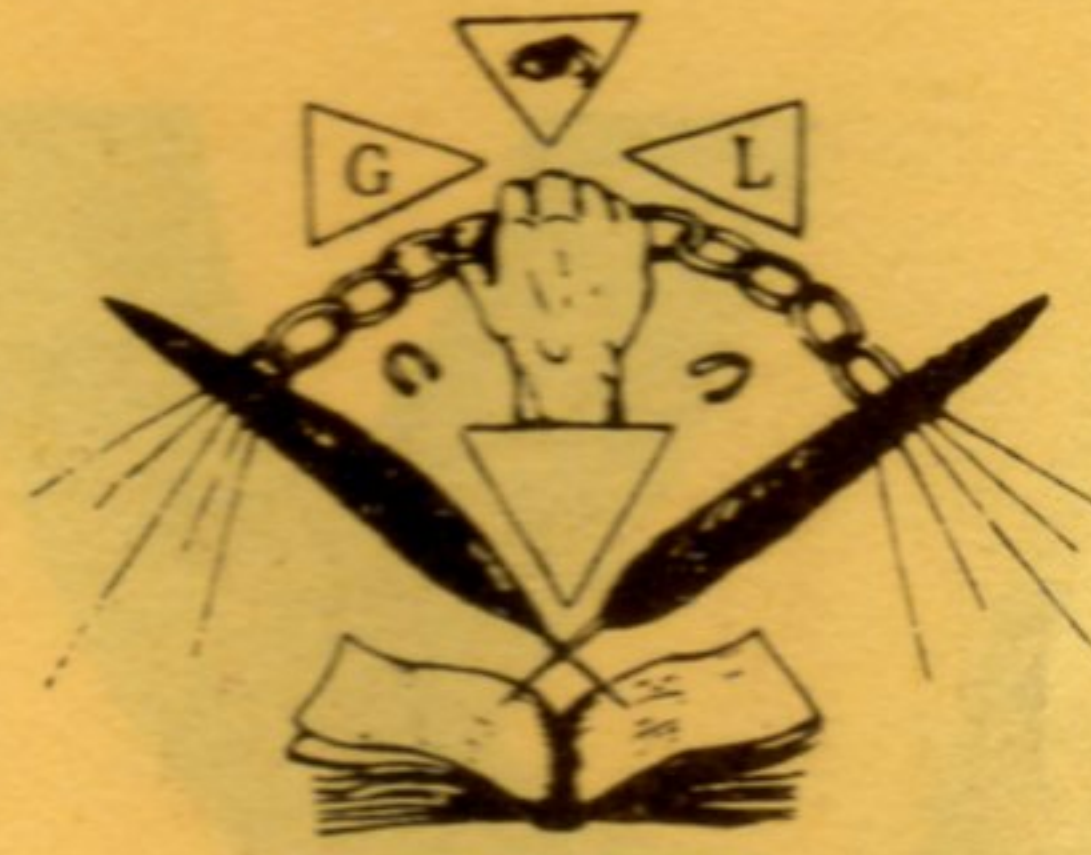




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Editor's notebook

by WILLIAM SEA

This has been a difficult but exciting period for me. Because this issue has many articles that pertain in some way to relationships, I have had the opportunity to examine some of my own relationships more thoroughly. At the same time, I've had to say good-bye to some of my most beloved friends. I will miss a surprise snowball down my neck or an embarrassing remark now that Sue Robinson has moved to California. And her spouse Judy Weber was one of my most trusted confidants. I, and the entire Gay community will miss them very much. They were open, and refreshing and just plain fun to be with. They were also serious workers for Gay rights in this area.

Galen Moon has also moved to California. I didn't know Galen for long but in the short period I did know him I learned that he was a staunch and dedicated friend and humanitarian. Galen will still be contributing to the magazine, so his outspoken voice for "going-public" will still be heard here, but he will be missed.

And then there was RRobert. He also has moved to California -- and he has taken part of me with him. He was and is one of my closest personal friends. During his last two weeks here I had to flee from him several times to keep him from seeing the tears and as I write this I can hardly see the paper. I love and miss you RRobert, but I know that what you are doing is right for you and can only strengthen our friendship.

RRobert was our photographer and also did much other work on this magazine. I also miss him because of the extra work now that he is gone. He was going to send a photo for this issue's cover, but his equipment arrived too late for us, and we were caught unprepared. Bruce Janis rescued us with last minute artwork and I wish to thank him for a valiant effort. Bruce is also a close personal friend and I am glad to report that he has not moved to California.

Because of my self-examination I've discovered that many of my relationships were stronger than I thought. I've also developed some new friends during this period (thank you Verne) and all in all, after recovering from a bout of depression and self-pity, have emerged feeling pretty good about myself, Gaylife magazine and the entire Gay community.

GAYLIFE

MAGAZINE

SPECIALTY PUBLICATIONS, INC
P.O. BOX 493
ST. LOUIS, MO., 63166

GAYLIFE CREED

Truth is the only road to freedom. Gaylife Magazine will always be an independent voice seeking the overthrow of intolerance, hate, injustice, oppression and lies, wherever they are found. We will always call things as we see them, never avoid controversy, always oppose all forms of bigotry. Humankind can only survive when all people have full human rights, regardless of sex or sexual orientation, race, creed, color, age or national origin. Full and complete information is necessary to achieve full human rights; in these pages truth shall prevail!

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SUSPECTED RAPIST ARRESTED

Gary Dwain Brown, age 22, presently living in Ferguson, has been arrested in connection with three sexual assaults and two attempted sexual assaults on five service station attendants during the last month. The arrest took place March 23rd, and he has been booked suspected of a sex crime, kidnapping, flourishing a deadly weapon, robbery, and armed criminal assault.

This person meets the description of the rapist described in the last issue of Gaylife, and all information including full name, address, place of employment and other information exactly corresponds to information we had. We understand that many of the leads used by the police during their investigation were from the Gay community.

Gary claimed when arrested that he had been "banned" from the Gay community because he was "too rough" with some of his partners. This "roughness" included reports of people being threatened with death while held at knife point, young men between 15 and 20 being abandoned without clothing after being raped on deserted roads, and one incident of a young man being terrorized for hours at knife point, nude, in sub zero temperatures. Some were robbed.

Gaylife magazine was deeply involved in the search for this individual while all of his known victims were gay. When authorities were approached to try to stop this individual, we were told in several places that they were not interested, that the kids were interested in sex, so what if what they got was more intense than they expected.

The attacks on service station employees began Feb. 21st with the assault of a Cool Valley attendant. Other attacks occurred on Feb. 28th in Bridgeton, and March 21st. in St. Peters. Also on March 21st there was an unsuccessful attempt in St. Charles. The last attempt was in Edmundson. The attendant escaped and ran and was able to identify Gary from police photographs and in a lineup. The Bridgeton employee was also robbed. Four of the five victims have positively identified Gary as their assailant.

His method of operation with the service station attendants was to engage them in conversation while no other customers were present, pull a knife and force them into his car. They would then be driven to isolated areas. In the Gay community, young men would be cruised at the park or outside a bar. When they agreed to go with him they would be driven to St. Charles county, and the knife would be pulled after "parking".

HELP

Gaylife Magazine has a two-fold problem that many of our readers can help with. While more than 1000 copies of issue #3 were distributed, only 70 of those were to subscribers. Most of the balance were sold as single copies at bookstores, and other establishments.

We are not complaining, far from it. In fact we are very pleased with our progress. However, newsstand sales return our money only after the following issue comes out, but, we paid for it long before it was issued. In other words, cash flow is a problem. The solution is a much larger number of subscribers.

More subscribers would also mean we could start mailing with a second class permit which would reduce our mailing cost significantly. We are therefore asking those of you who are able to subscribe. The advantages to you are, (1) by subscribing you save 25% of the newsstand price of regular issues, and much more on special issues such as the Guide, (2) you don't miss an issue, (3) you help insure that Gaylife can be published in its present format with constant improvements. Subscriptions are mailed in plain brown envelopes and subscribers' names and addresses are never divulged to any other person or organization.

We long ago decided we would never beg for donations. The magazine must support itself. But the three of us who founded Gaylife now have over \$2000.00 of our money tied up in the magazine and are nearly out of resources. We are not asking for donations, but rather that you invest in future issues by subscribing. You will help us so we can help you.

BROADWAY TERRITORY OPENS

Kansas City's newest Gay place is The Broadway Territory, an all Gay restaurant/cocktail lounge serving lunch and dinner. The new spot is at 3601 Broadway, and was formerly the Crazy Horse Lounge. A dance floor is projected at a later date.

Owners of the new establishment are Chip Karey and John Jamison who also own the very popular Sundance Disco at 3726 Broadway, just a few doors away.

art issue

We are very excited about some of the art already received for the special art supplement we plan to publish with our issue number 8.

If you have artwork that would lend itself to black on white reproduction, please contact us as soon as possible. We want to make a very good presentation and doing things at the last minute does not lend itself to please either directly submit your work or write to us and describe what you have.

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CHARLIE'S RENEWS

Charlie's Lounge, downtown St. Louis' only show bar, has recently been granted an extension of its lease at its present location, 6th & Delmar. Until the new lease was confirmed, it had been thought that Charlie's would be forced to close or move. With the announcement of the new lease, owner "Lady Charles" has also announced plans to fix up and remodel the popular lounge.

C.O.A.L.

Mr. Perry Desmond, and a group he leads called C.O.A.L. (come out and live), have been receiving a great deal of publicity in St. Louis print and broadcast media. His organization is billed as the only "ministry" to Gay people in this area. Their message is simply "if you accept Jesus you won't be Gay any more. (If you are still Gay, you really haven't accepted Him). Perry is an expert on Gay issues and a showman of much experience and is therefore able to gain trust. His message is a cruel hoax to Gay people and their families because it fails to consider scientifically proven factors. But he weaves a good story, and will be very dangerous to those just coming-out or who are having great difficulty accepting themselves as homosexuals. Our Guide issue will present a detailed account of C.O.A.L. and its self-proclaimed "ex-transsexual" leader. People who have accepted his type of message in other cities have found themselves in such intolerable situations that they have committed suicide. Please read our next issue before trusting C.O.A.L. or Mr. Perry Desmond.

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directory issue

Our next issue will endeavor to be a complete and comprehensive guide to Gay organizations, businesses, services, and information in Missouri and areas near Missouri which are quite active, such as Lawrence, Kansas, Quincy and E. St. Louis, Illinois. We plan to have articles about each establishment or service, explaining exactly what they do, where they are, hours, and other pertinent information. The issue will contain maps, photos, interviews, etc.

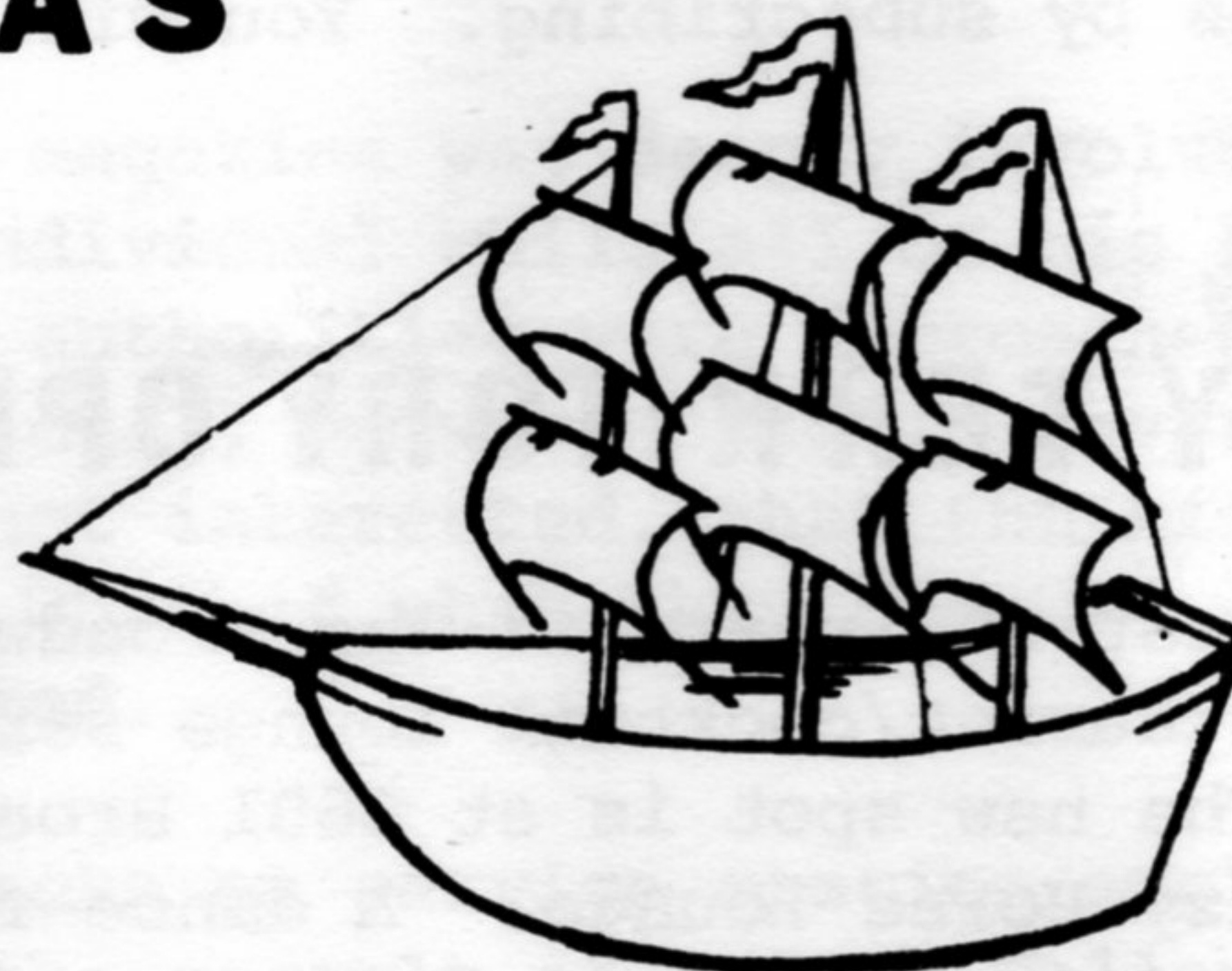
Although the Guide will be a regular issue, the page size will be slightly smaller to differentiate it from other issues. It will remain on sale all year, and become an annual endeavor. Price will be \$2.00. The Guide will contain many more pages than normal and will include all of our regular features.

Usually there are six weeks between issues, but in order to give us more time to prepare this special issue it will come out seven weeks after this issue (#4). Issue #6 will put us back on schedule by being five weeks after the Guide.

The Guide will be on sale May 19th. Closing dates will be April 22nd for columns, articles and display ads, April 29th for news items and May 4th for classified ads, directory entries and calendar items.

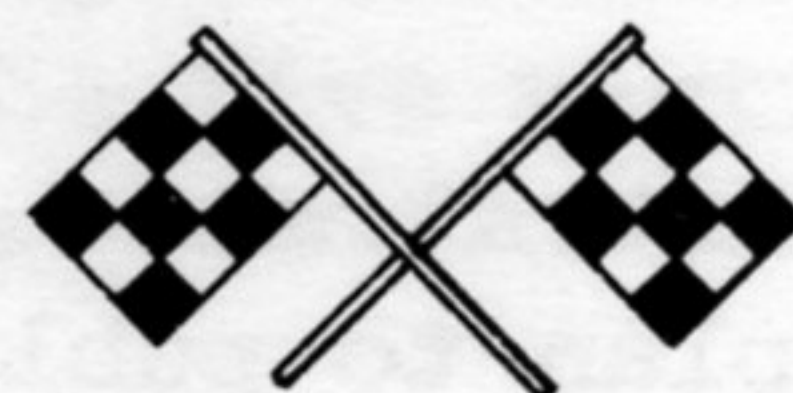
If you know of any Gay organization, business or service, or any information that is appropriate to a guide, please contact us immediately.

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CRISIS/INFORMATION HOTLINE TO OPEN

The Gay Academic Union has announced a tentative opening date of April 30th for their new St. Louis Gay Crisis Intervention and Information Hotline. It had been hoped to open the line by April 2nd, however, last minute staffing problems forced a decision to postpone the opening one month. Enough people were available immediately to get the line open on a very limited basis but it was felt that there would be a large chance that advertised hours would not be met at all times due to heavy and unrealistic demands on volunteers' time. The decision to postpone was made because it was felt that the line MUST be open during all advertised hours. Additional trained people will be available by the new date.

Initially the line will open with people trained and experienced on the old MLSC Gay hotline and with people from the Life Crisis Services Suicide and Crisis Hotline. All volunteers have been thoroughly screened to avoid some of the problems that occurred on the MLSC line. Additionally, the GAV has adopted a policy of absolutely no "in-house" counseling -- volunteers will never be allowed to arrange meetings with callers. All counseling referrals will be to licensed counselors or to peer counselors that are established and recommended by other professional agencies.

The new line will have the same phone number as the old line, 367-0084. GAV wanted this number because it already is listed in the Yellow Pages under Gay Hotline, as well as being listed in national Gay directories and locally by other agencies for referral purposes. Provisions are being made to establish training as soon as possible for new volunteers to the line. Volunteers are needed and should contact GAV as soon as possible at P. O. Box 4916, St. Louis, Mo., 63108. Candidates should include their name, address and phone number and will be contacted as soon as possible.

New volunteers will be screened prior to training for emotional stability and motive. Training will consist of approximately 40 hours of classroom work in such areas as communication skills, suicide assessment and intervention, depression, crisis intervention, drugs and alcoholism, sexuality and lifestyle, emergency resources and referrals (housing, food, medical aid, mental health, etc.), runaways, legal problems, and many other areas. Volunteers will serve an apprentice period with an experienced hotline worker after the classroom training is complete. Volunteers will be required to be members of the GAV, prior to receiving training and will be asked to donate 2 1/2 hours per week to the hotline.



St. Louis Chapter
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AND FREEDOM FROM FEAR

COMING SOON

the GAV Gay

Crisis Intervention
and Information

Hotline

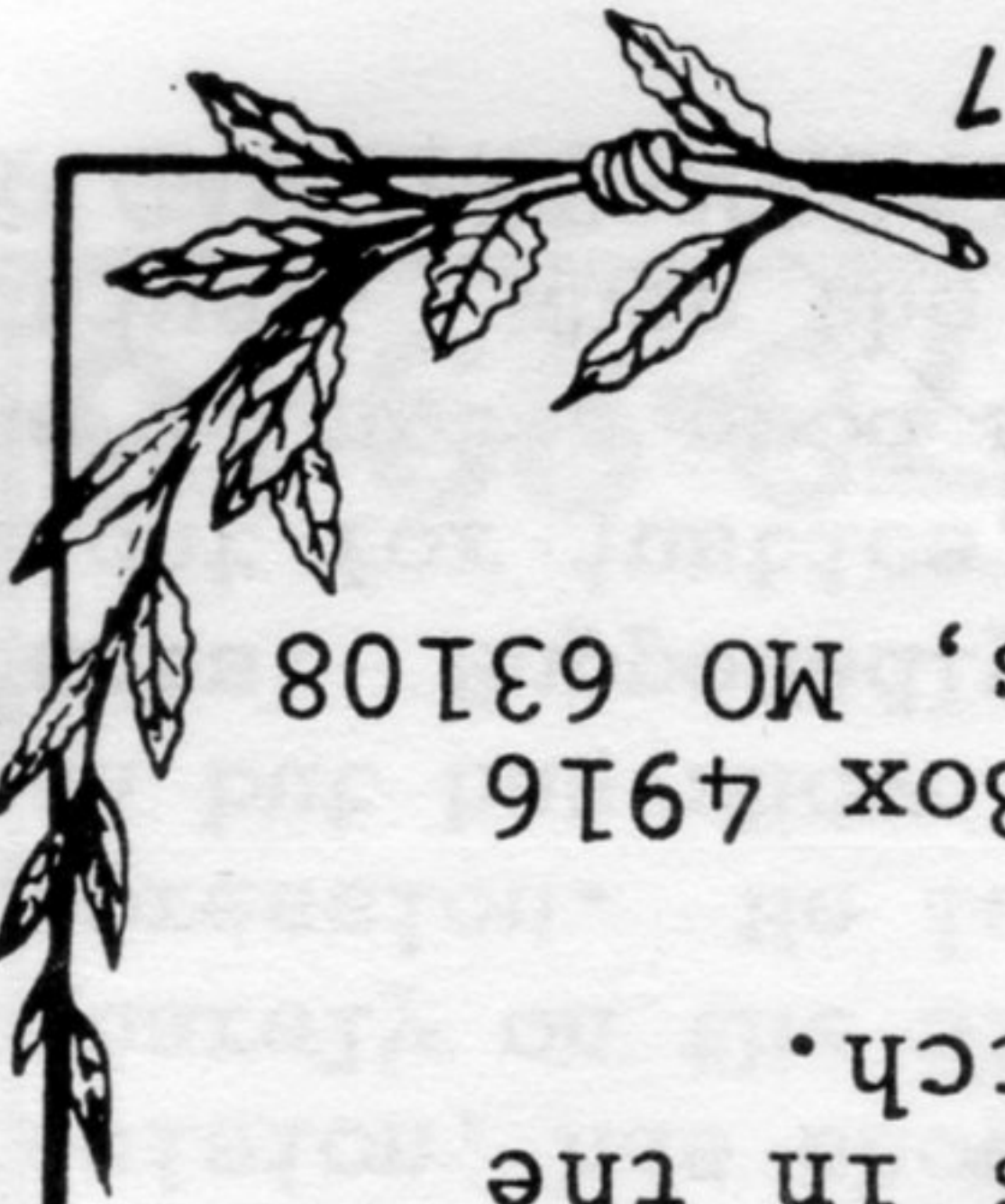
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Watch for advertisements
of operating times in
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St. Louis, MO 63108



MOR OR LES OPENS

Some people say St. Louis is dead, "ain't nothin' happenin'". One may have to disagree with that when one considers the steady climb of one of our few Gay women bar owners. Starting at the Bottom Of The Pot she moved, to the Middle Of The Road where she almost got run over, to Mor Or Les, the newest Gay bar in town. Mac McCann had her opening night March 9. The scene was enough to make most any Lesbian's heart beat a little faster. Lesbians to the left, Lesbians to the right, Lesbians in back, Lesbians in front, in fact almost more Lesbians than the eye could see. Mac's opening night was a success. Many agreed that this was her biggest and best bar yet.

Mor Or Les is located at 4135 S. Grand Ave. and is open from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. In the near future lunch will be served.

FOOTE OVERRIDES VOTE

Dean Edward T. Foote, head of the Law School at Washington University overruled the 260/196 vote of law school students and has declared that the present discriminatory placement policy will remain in effect. Students had voted January 26th to add wording to the placement policy to prohibit discrimination against Gay people, but immediately after the vote Dean Foote had made it very clear to the media that the vote was merely advisory and his decision was not bound by the students' desire to end oppression.

The placement policy prohibits recruiters from coming on campus to interview students if their company or group has discriminatory hiring policies based on race, creed, gender, etc. Dean Foote said that his decision was based on the fact that military recruitment policy does discriminate against homosexuals, therefore, they would be kept off campus if the new policy were to be effected. He claimed that such a policy could also reduce the job opportunities for all students and graduates of the school.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Dean Foote, by his decision, has shown himself publically to be squarely on the side of discrimination and oppression. He is supposed to be an educated man but has shown ignorance of documentable facts. Supposedly lawyers are leaders in the fight for justice, but Dean Foote has proven he is not a good role model -- he, himself is unjust. When the students were allowed to

vote, we are sure nobody expected the homosexual viewpoint to win. What they did not realize is that there is no homosexual viewpoint. The issue was not straight vs. Gay. It was an issue of Human Rights and the students were very much tuned in to real human needs. This put Dean Foote on the spot, and he had to show himself publicly for what he is -- a bigot.

WOMEN'S CONCERTS scheduled

Several exciting Women's concerts are scheduled in our state in the near future.

The first will be in Kansas City, Mo., when Chris Williamson will perform with Jackie Robbins at the Lyric Theatre, 11th and Central, at 8 p.m. Friday April 13th. Tickets will be \$5.00 in advance or \$6.00 at the door, and can be obtained in Kansas City at New Earth Books & Records, Classical Westport or Caper's Corners, or in Columbia, Mo. at Best Tape & Records and The Women's Place. In Kansas tickets can be purchased at Sound Board Records in Topeka, Peaches in Overland Park, Dirt Cheap Records in Lincoln or in Lawrence at Sister Kettle's or Kief's Records.

Then in St. Louis The Women's Choir will be in concert on April 20th. They will be performing "The Return of the Great Mother" by Roberta Kosse and Jenny Malmquist. The performance will be at 8 p.m. at the New City School, Lake and Waterman (one block east of Union) and will be a benefit in support of the St. Louis Abused Women Support Project. Voluntary donations will be accepted at the door and child care will be available during the concert.

April 21st brings Chris Williamson and Jackie Robbins to St. Louis at the Main Concert Hall, CASA, at Delmar and Trinity (one block east of Big Bend). Tickets for the 8 p.m. concert are \$5.00 in advance or \$6.00 at the door and can be purchased from Left Bank Books, The Women's Eye, Peaches (Hampton store only) The Sunshine Inn or Street-side Records. Child care will be provided.

Both of the above St. Louis concerts will be held simultaneously with the Gay Pride celebration at Washington University (but are not a part of it), and transportation will be provided between the campus celebration and the concerts.

On May 21st Meg Christianson will be performing at S.I.U. Edwardsville. Further information will appear next issue or can be obtained at The Women's Eye.

SILVERSTEIN IN MISSOURI

Dr. Charles Silverstein, author of *A Family Matter*, and co-author of *Joy of Gay Sex*, was recently in Missouri conducting interviews for his new book *Gay Male Lovers*. This book will be the first major research concerning the subject of long term male-male spousal relationships. Also covered in this work will be material on beginning relationships, ending relationships, unusual arrangements, and other aspects of Gay-lover situations.

While in St. Louis Dr. Silverstein addressed a joint meeting of the Concerned Gay Students and the Gay Academic Union. Fifty-six people attended this benefit which raised \$28.00 for the two groups. Gaylife intended to bring you a transcript of Dr. Silverstein's remarks, however, our tape was damaged and only notes are available.

One of the most fascinating revelations of the evening was Dr. Silverstein's complete shattering of the myth that long term male-gay relationships do not exist. He said that based on existing biased information he started his cross-country search for couples with the idea that he would be extremely lucky to find one couple who had been together twenty-five years. He said that he has long since stopped interviewing twenty-five year couples because they are so common, and the thing that has impressed him most was that he has found very large numbers of long term couples in every part of the country, and in every setting from rural to urban.

Dr. Silverstein's comment that there were basic differences between Gay people in areas such as New York and San Francisco and Gay people in the Midwest drew the most audience response. What he said is that there are widely different influences in various parts of the country that create different opportunities, peer pressures, etc., and that people respond to their influences, thereby creating great differences in the way they live, in their relationships and even in how they cope with being Gay.

For instance, Dr. Silverstein, who has an exclusively Gay practice in New York, said that in that city, it would be totally inconceivable for a young man to reach the age of 18 and not know that he were Gay and have been responding to that for years. However, because of extreme religious and societal pressures in the Midwest, a man can go through extraordinary mental contortions to keep from admitting even to himself, that he

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is Gay. It is entirely possible for men in the mid part of our country to reach their thirties (or much later) without realizing their homosexuality. Partially because of this much later start, partially because of societal pressure, many more men in the Midwest marry and have families, and such things as coming-out are much more difficult. Dr. Silverstein was an interesting and frequently humorous speaker and we look forward to his new book. Accurate, well-researched material about loving, lasting relationships will help Gay people realize that their search for love is not just a dream nor a futile exercise.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

by CONNIE L. RIVERS

Saturday, March 10, International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated in St. Louis at the Grace Methodist Church on Waterman at Skinker.

Laura Moore, IWD Coalition representative, served as emcee and began the celebration with an historical overview of working women. Two of the situations I found particularly interesting were how women, in 1942, celebrated IWD in concentration camps and how women today in Iran played an important role in overturning the Shah's regime.

The first guest speaker, Doris Graham of the St. Louis Teacher's Union, repeatedly expressed the significance behind the fact that St. Louis teachers were not striking solely for a pay-raise. Two other underlying issues were smaller classes and planning time, especially for the elementary classes. She also pointed out society's promises to students and parents of the results a better education should bring: a chance for college education, a better life, and the ability (possibility) of making positive changes and contributions to society. St. Louis' AA rating (a mediocre C on the A - F scale) cannot fulfill society's promises until the 3 underlying key issues have been met.

She expressed the solidarity of the people behind the teacher's strike and paralleled it to the Women's Movement. Later in the day it was overwhelmingly determined by a standing - vote majority that we would support the teacher's because of the overlapping goals and ideas of both groups.

Inuka Mwanguzi, a local civil rights activist, was the second guest speaker. She immediately expressed concern because she hasn't seen anyone doing anything for women since last year's IWD celebration and called for immediate support of the teacher's strike as a critical issue for women. She stated that education is the key. Previously, as a "dumb nigger" she had been depressed and oppressed and hadn't known what that meant. Inuka pointed out that women are the "new nigger". Instead of seeing a "token Black" you see a "token Woman". To further the Women's Movement she said we must stop intellectualizing the revolution away and educate ourselves through politics. We need to build leadership and solidarity.

Inuka pointed out the key difference between the Women's Movement and other civil rights movements as the Women's Movement having the ability to encompass any valid issue through an international link. If women develop strong links they will break down the barriers between class, color, age, etc. She ended her inspiring speech by saying she would like to be asked back again, not to speak, but to participate, and left us with this thought, "Women hold up half the Sky."

Next, the St. Louis Women's Choir sang two beautiful songs, "Bread and Roses" and "We Shall Go Forth." Then they led the audience through a rousing chorus of "Union Maid."

The first workshop I attended was "The 'Pro - Life' Movement: Some Hidden Connections". The connections that were revealed linked the oppressive parties

"WOMEN HOLD UP HALF THE SKY"

GAY PRIDE

-ST. LOUIS

The Concerned Gay Students of Washington University will be hosting the Missouri Coalition For Human Rights quarterly meeting April 22nd and have plans to turn the entire weekend into a giant celebration of Gay Pride.

Activities will start Friday April 20th with registration and then a choice of either the movie OUTRAGEOUS or The St. Louis Women's Choir Concert. Transportation will be provided from the campus to the concerts for those who need it. See concert details elsewhere in this issue.

Saturday will be a day filled with workshops and possibly other films. Parents of Gays will conduct a panel discussion. Other workshops will discuss coming-out, militancy, separatism, and much more. Some workshops not announced are still in the planning stages. There will also be an ongoing coffeehouse all day Saturday with fine entertainment planned. Tables and booths of Gay organizations will be set up.

A gala Disco Dance will be held Saturday evening at the hall in the M.C.C. building, 5108 Waterman. It will start at 9 p.m.

Also Saturday evening Chris Williamson will be in concert in University City, and transportation will be provided from the campus to both the dance and the concert.

Sunday will see the MCHR Board meeting and Sunday afternoon an ecumenical religious service will be held.

Registration will be \$7.00 and will include admission to all activities on campus (concerts off campus are sponsored by different groups and charged separately) and the dance, as well as transportation. Housing is available for those with sleeping bags. For more information or to reserve tickets contact Concerned Gay Students, Box 1128, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. 63130.

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?

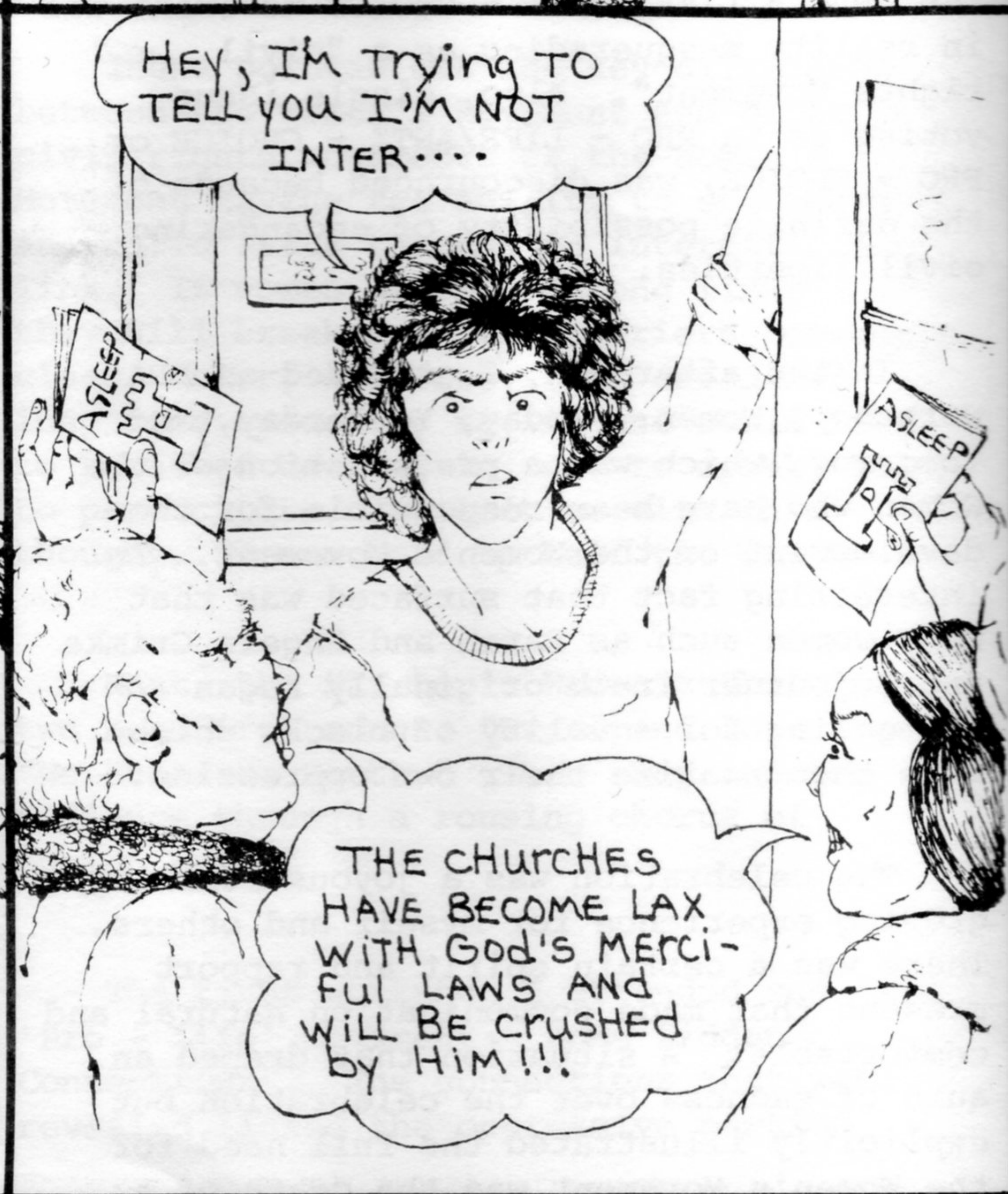
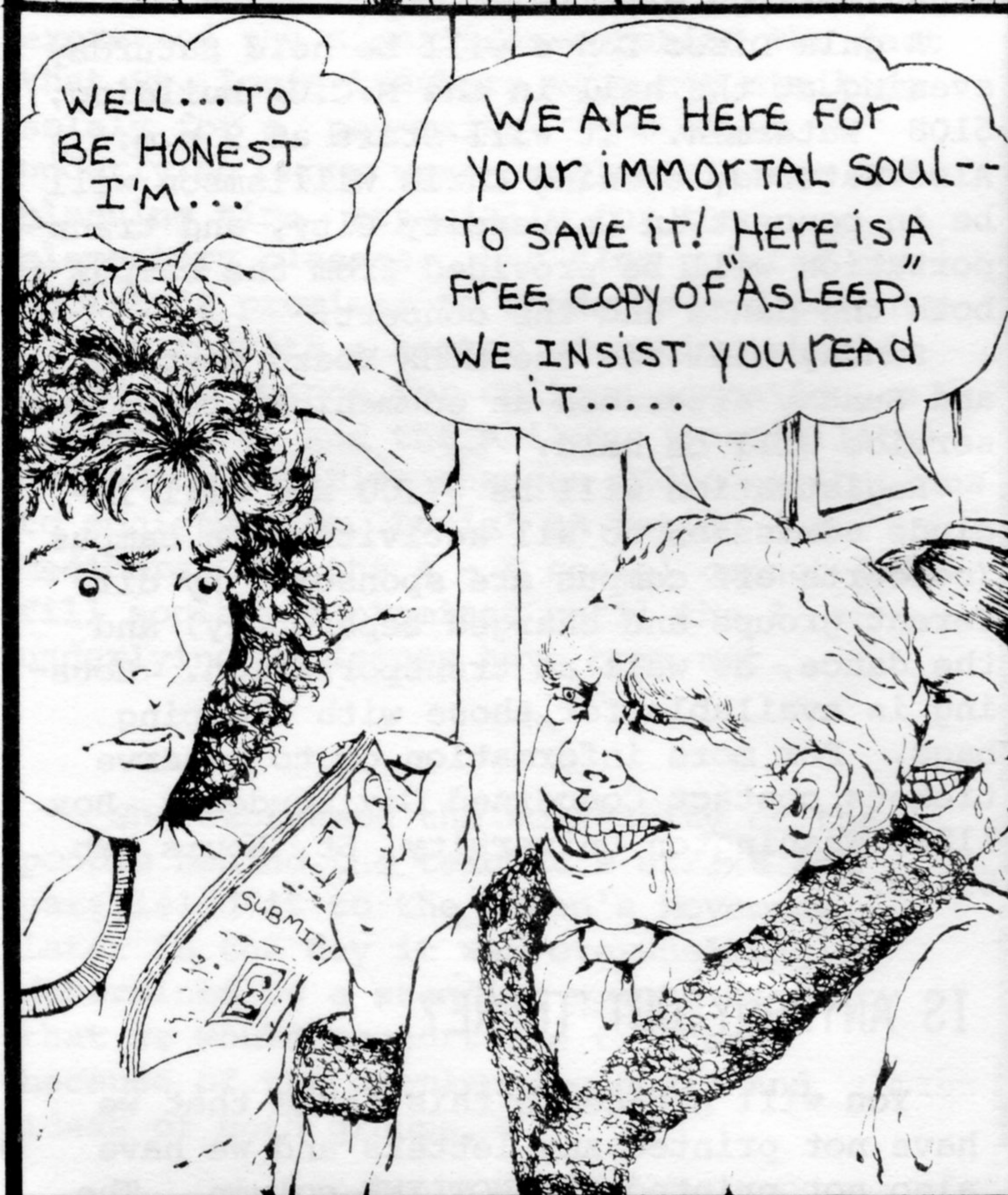
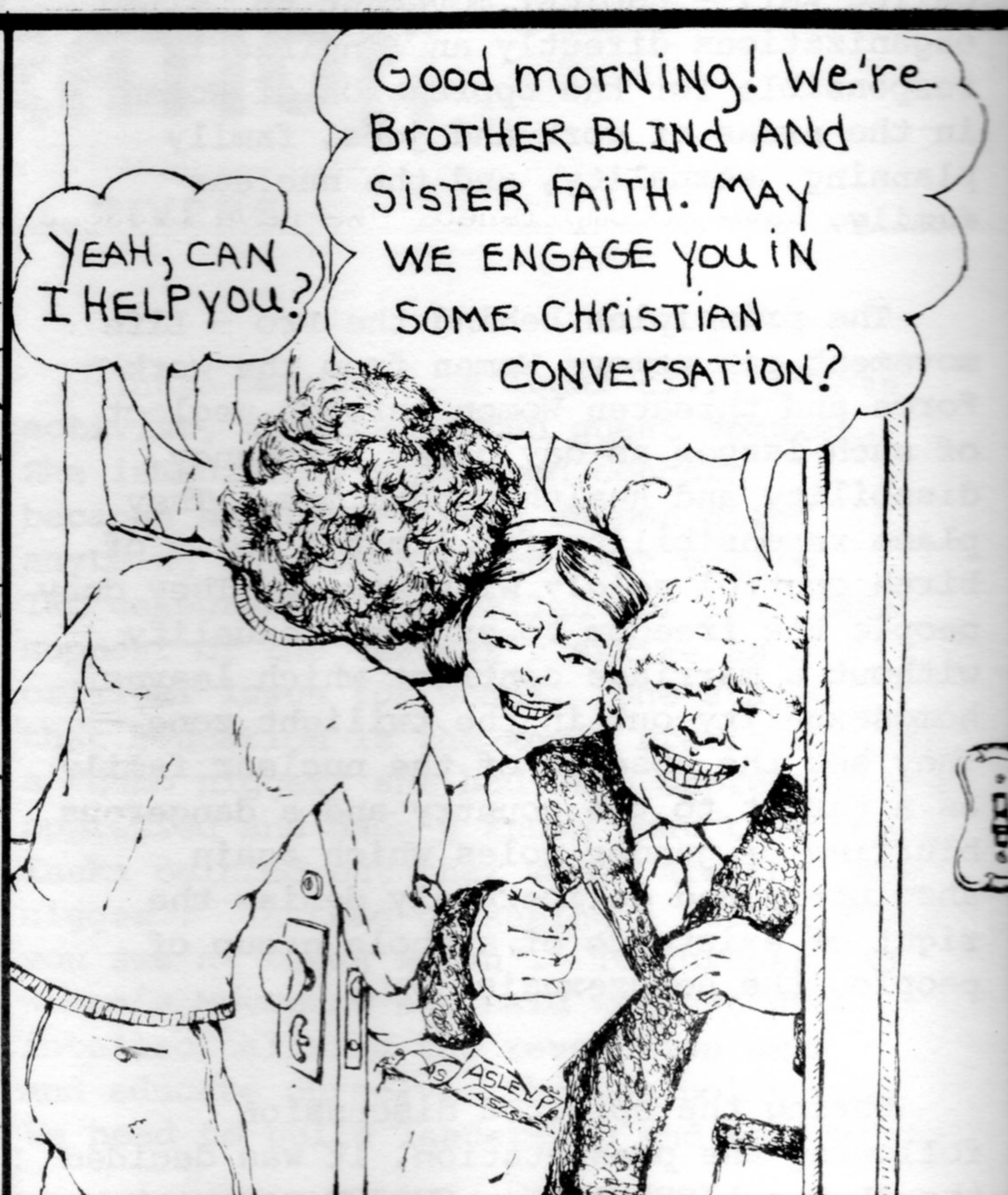
You will notice in this issue that we have not printed any letters and we have also not printed the HOTLINE column. The reason is that there have been letters or questions for publication. Is anybody out there?

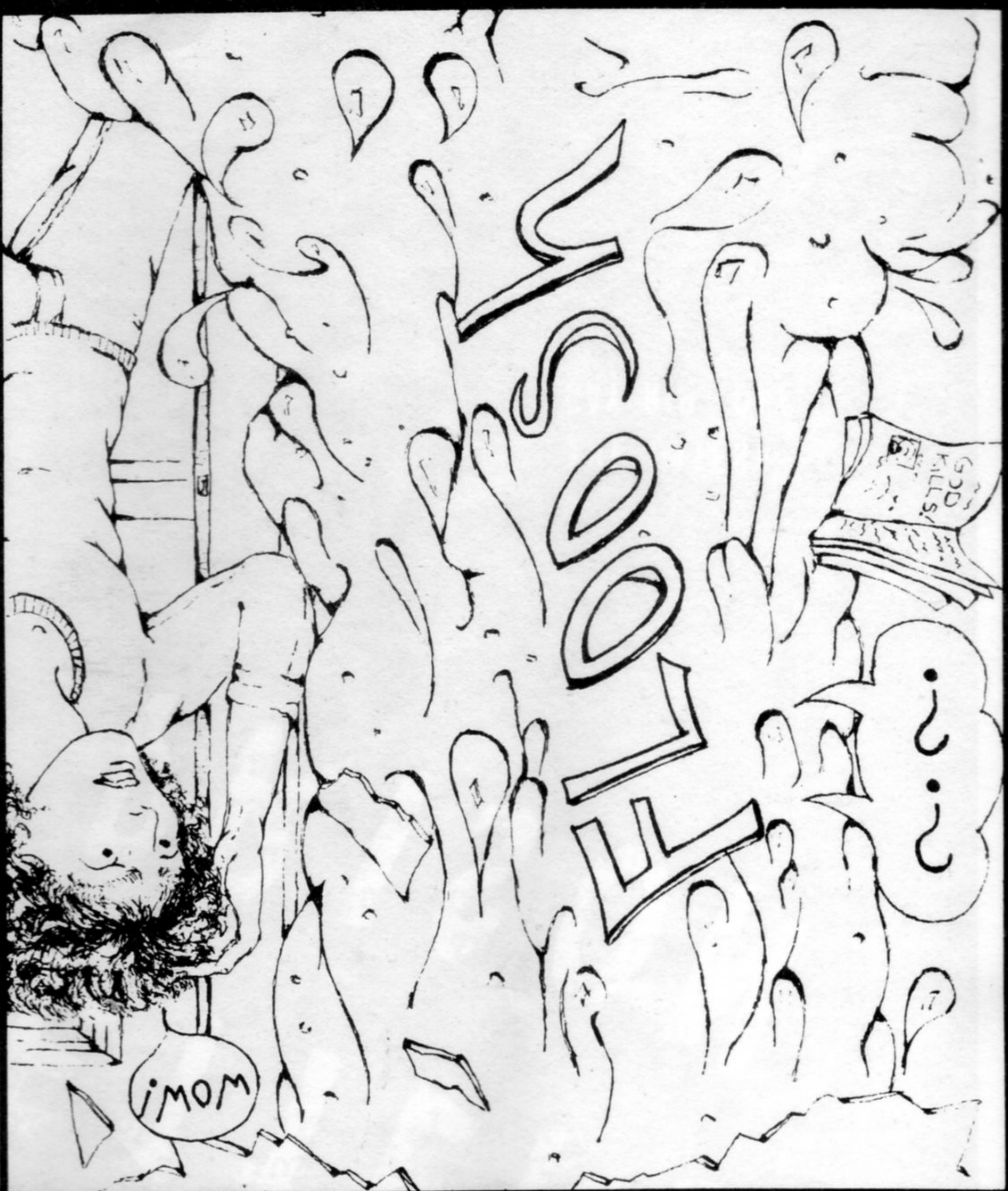
responsible for the funding and organization of the PRO - LIFE (more correctly called ANTI - CHOICE) movement to organizations directly and indirectly responsible for the oppression of women in the areas of work and jobs, family planning, sexuality, and the nuclear family.

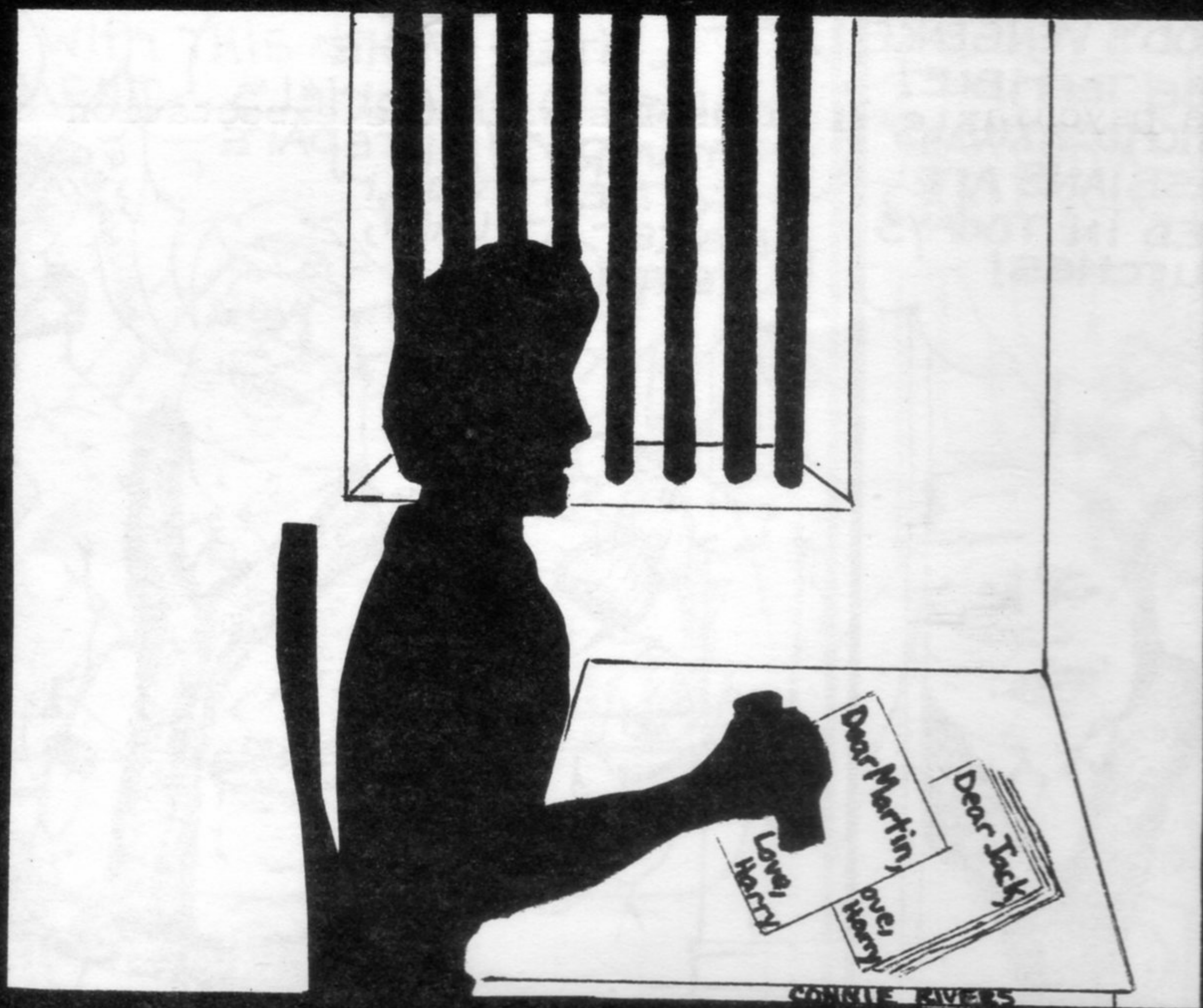
The principles behind the pro - life movement can remove women from the work force and threaten women through neglect of such issues as day care, pregnancy, disability and health conditions. They place responsibility for limited forms of birth control solely with women. They deny people the freedom to explore sexuality without a marriage contract which leaves homosexuality out in the twilight zone. They see the absence of the nuclear family as a threat to the country and a dangerous blurring of gender roles which again absolutely and deliberately denies the right of existence of a whole group of people, the homosexuals.

During the spirited discussion following the presentation, it was decided the "PRO - LIFE"/ANTI - CHOICE movement was in reality masquerading as a "civil rights Movement". Also, single issue voting as in PRO - LIFE/ANTI - CHOICE or PRO - CHOICE, was discouraged because of the definite possibility of endangering civil liberties.

In the afternoon, I attended an ERA workshop, Women: Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow, which was a presentation of the Women who have been responsible for the development of the Women's Movement. An interesting fact that surfaced was that many women such as Sarah and Angela Grimke and Sojourner Truth originally began struggling for equality of blacks which made them realize their own oppression. The celebration was a joyous learning/growing experience for myself and others. There was a certain spirit and rapport present that made communication natural and comfortable. A situation that draped an aura of sadness over the celebration but explicitly illustrated the full need for the Women's Movement was the death of a sister in Iran during a demonstration against the oppressive treatment of women there.







LOVE LETTERS FROM A PRISON

THE LATEST
GAY RIP-OFF

by MARTIN MARSHALL

This is a true story. The letters are actual. They were sent over a period of about five months. Although we only have one side of the correspondence, you will be able to follow the "action" quite well. This, of course, is an elaborate con game. We wish that this were the only incidence of this happening, but it occurs with far too much frequency. A few common sense precautions can prevent you from being ripped off and your feelings crushed: do not allow yourself or your pen pal to believe there is a lover relationship; do not send money to those you do not know!

Harry H- #054807
August 29, 1978
Dear Martin,

Since writing to a complete stranger is a brand new experience for me, forgive me if this letter seems written in an awkward fashion. There is a very simple explanation as to how I came to select your name from among the many listed in The Brotherhood Directory. The simple truth is that I selected your name at random.

What I am about to tell you next may alarm you but I feel it is important to always be honest. The thing I feel I must tell is that I'm presently serving a seven year sentence of which I've already done almost three years. The crime I was convicted of was negligent homicide. Which simply means that I accidentally killed a person. It happened while I was driving home from the beach and I lost control of the car which I was driving which in turn struck and killed a man riding a motorcycle. After it happened I panicked and sped away. But after three sleepless nights I then turned myself over to the police.

Since that tragic day I have paid dearly for what I did. Between my guilt and the ugly experience of being in prison it took me about a year to snap out of the state of shock I was in. But through the healing effects of time I gradually returned to my normal self again.

When it comes right down to it, Martin, everyone, with no exception, is only one mistake away from where I now write this letter. Now for a little information about myself. First of all I was born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut. My birth date is September 28, 1956, which makes me an old man of 21. I am 6 feet tall and weigh about 170 pounds. My hair is blond and eyes brown. I

enjoy sports and reading. Basically, I'm a fairly quiet person. I'm also fond of doing the simple things in life. I have what I believe to be a good sense of humor. I guess I'll go ahead and close now. I hope to be hearing from you real soon. Needless to say if I don't I'll probably be pretty disappointed. So, for now, Martin, take care and God bless.

Sincerely yours,
Harry H-

Harry H- #054807
September 11, 1978
Dear Martin,

I was so very pleased to receive your letter today. I must admit I was also mildly surprised you replied especially after reading your letter. Surprised because I didn't anticipate establishing a correspondence with a person of your caliber.

As a rule I don't usually spend much time looking at photos of people but in your case I made an exception. As a matter of fact I found myself studying yours. Rarely have I seen a face reflect so much of life itself. In your face I see a composition of many qualities. And furthermore these qualities seem to contradict each other. For instance you look so very sad and on the same hand you look very contented. Also you look like the type of person that people readily confide in. I really can't get over how kind, sincere and tender you look.

Martin, perhaps I'm being silly but I feel I know you better now from having seen your photo than if we had corresponded for a year.

In answer to your questions, I expect to be out in about a year. As for my hopes, plans, and dreams, I'm afraid they still remain abstract. And, yes, I would like to get chummy with you even if I am young enough to be your grandson. Stay mellow and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
September 19, 1978

Dear Martin,

Received your wonderful letter and was greatly uplifted by it. You certainly do have a way with words, Martin. The things you say would mean a great deal more to me if I knew for sure that I was the only one you were saying them to. But a person as fascinating as you obviously must have oceans of friends, some of whom are probably also lovers. Which, of course, is only normal. Besides, at this stage of our relationship I certainly don't expect you to abruptly change your lifestyle. But if our relationship were to blossom into something very special (and I suspect it will) I'm afraid I would find it difficult to share you with other men.

That is, of course, on an intimate basis.

Although it's a trait I'm not at all proud of, but in the interest of laying all my cards on the table, I feel I must tell you that I'm a very possessive person.

If you recall I stated in my initial letter that you were the only one I had written to. Well, that no longer holds true. You see since my name appeared in The Brotherhood Directory I received several nice letters. I immediately replied that I had already found a person whom I thought I would enjoy correspondence with. I also thanked them for their very nice letters. If I thought for a minute that you were the type of person who might get a swelled head from this knowledge I would not have mentioned this to you. But I'm almost certain that you're not put together that way.

You asked me to describe my body and all this time I thought it was my mind you were interested in--only kidding. As I said before, I'm about 6 feet tall and weigh approximately 170 pounds. My eyes are brown and hair blond. I have an athletic build and have been told on more than one occasion that I'm quite handsome. If I tell you the rest I may be shedding away all my mystique but actually it's no big thing (no pun intended) when it comes right down to it. I

also happen to be well endowed, 9½" to be exact. My size has always been a source of embarrassment to me. Even here while taking a shower I'll occasionally find someone staring at my dong which in turn makes me feel kind of like a freak. To tell the truth I would be quite satisfied if it was only a mere 5 or 6 inches.

If there's one thing I can't stand, it's a size freak. More than once I've had a relationship with a guy who I thought really cared for me only to find out later that he could care less for me as a person. When I first became sexually active I was extremely naive and as a result was constantly being exploited. Now I'm particularly selective as for my lovers.

Having probably already said too much let me close for now. I'll be looking forward to your next letter with great anticipation. So, for now, Martin, take care and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
September 25, 1978

Dear Martin,

Received your lovely card and money order today. Words seem quite inadequate in trying to express my thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Since yours was the very first birthday card I received since my incarceration I was especially touched by it.

You must be asking yourself by now, surely he must have a family. Well, the answer to that is yes and no. Since it would be unfair of me not to clear that last statement up, let me give you a brief glimpse of my family situation. You may find what I'm about to relate terribly boring but if I do recall correctly you did say you wanted to know everything about me.

When my family first learned of my being Gay they nearly went to pieces. I think they would have much rather I told them that I had just assassinated the president. Instead of improving, the situation grew constantly worse. And then one day a casual friend mentioned something about a job in North Carolina. Immediately I applied for the position and was hired. Much to my regret though, the job didn't last long. Rather than go back to Connecticut I was determined to step out on my own and experience the good and bad of life. While in Florida I met a variety of

fascinating people. Until I arrived in Florida I guess I hadn't realized what a sheltered existence I had lived. But after a while the novelty of Florida and its interesting inhabitants grew old. It was at this point I met a man who simply went by the name "The Fisherman". The Fisherman was a wonderfully warm, born again Christian. I was terribly impressed, if not mesmerized by the man. The Fisherman managed a large home for wayward souls. After spending a great deal of time with him over a two week period, he asked me if I would like to be a member of his staff. Thinking that it would provide me with an excellent opportunity to serve humanity as well as enrich my own life, I replied that I would.

Just when things seemed to be going perfect for me the tragic accident occurred. It took a while but one day I finally mastered the courage to call my folks. I reasoned if I couldn't turn to them for help who could I turn to? When I tried to explain to them what had happened they simply would not listen. They told me it was inevitable something of this nature would occur due to the filthy lifestyle they were certain I was living.

I never felt so hurt in my life. It wasn't long after that they refused to accept my phone calls and to answer my letters. Although I still continue to send them the usual cards, birthday, Mothers' and Fathers' Day and Christmas cards, they simply refuse to acknowledge my existence. It has been about 3 years since I last heard from them.

I'm certain this letter fell a far cry short of providing you with a bright spot in your day, but I felt it was necessary to provide you with a little insight on yours truly. I promise I'll write a more cheerful letter next time. For now, Martin, stay mellow and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
September 27, 1978
Dear Martin,

Received your latest letter and have read it approximately a dozen times. It seems no matter how uptight I may be your soothing poetic style instantly mellow me out. I think it was unfair of you not to

forewarn me that your beautiful prose could become addicting. I am deeply impressed by your uncanny ability to place things in their proper perspective. I think you derive your wisdom from seeking, exploring and accepting the truth in others as well as yourself.

I must apologize for coming on so strong. I certainly didn't mean to. All I can say is it seemed like the right thing to do so I did. I realize relationships must be nurtured but since my emotions have no intellect of their own, how can I explain this to them?

Martin, you might as well know now I'm not at all a conventional person and I certainly don't think and act in an orthodox fashion (God forbid I should ever change). I despise guidelines of any nature whether they concern how to properly love another person or conduct in general. Although I am not always successful I try to take life and people at face value.

Why I've conjured up this impression it's difficult to say but sometimes I feel you're patronizing to me. To tell you the truth, I really love it. Probably because it makes me feel dominated by you in a subtle way, and that's healthy--that is as opposed to doing it in a blatantly vulgar fashion. Incidentally, I also like to be the one who dominates. There are many healthy games two people can play based on these two needs people have. But in order to be fun the participants must understand the game. That is without verbalizing about it. Verbalizing seems to kill the fun. And, the game must be played with taste.

While on the subject of taste, I think that's another reason I find myself drawn to you. If there's one thing you do have, Martin, that's taste as well as class. As far as your concern and love for others goes I wouldn't have you be any other way. What I meant to convey in my previous letter was that I would expect you to reserve a small private island for me and I for you. And, this part of you as well as myself would remain sacred. No matter how strained or complex our involvement might get with others or even ourselves we could always retreat to this Utopia haven of ours and bask in each other's love. The ball is now in your court, Martin, and unlike yourself my arms are extended. For now, Martin, stay mellow and God bless--Shalom.

Love Harry

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Harry H- #054807

October 6, 1978

Dear Martin,

I was extremely touched by some of the things you said in your last letter. I can imagine the hell you must have went through. Now I feel a new dimension has been added to our relationship. I think it is vital in all relationships that two people are able to fully interrelate with one another. I would never coerce you into talking about something you may not care to discuss, but I am interested in knowing all about you. If you care to, please feel free to fill me in on your past.

I'm really experiencing great difficulty writing this letter. My mind is racing 100 miles an hour. There is so much I want to ask you and simply talk about. If I were granted any wish now it would be to rest my head in your lap and listen to you talk for days on end. I just love to listen to some one I find fascinating. While I was in jail, awaiting trial, I became acquainted with this man who was considerably older than myself. He was the most wonderful man I ever met in my entire life. I simply adored this man. Even though we only knew each other for a relatively brief period--several months--there is no question in my mind this man would have shed his life for me and I too for him.

He would read to me for hours at a time. He was extremely selfless. The only thing that mattered to him was my welfare. Because of this I worshipped him. We made plans. Boy! did we make plans! We would talk for hours concerning our future life together. As it turned out, he received a sentence of 105 years. My world shattered. The day he left the cellblock to begin serving his time was undoubtedly the saddest day of my life. I have not had another lover since--not even one sexual contact.

I guess the reason I shared this with you was to provide a little insight as to the type of person I am. I don't freely give my heart to just anyone, but when I do it's till the end. Don't misunderstand me, Martin, I'm not asking you to fill the void he left but I'm asking the freedom to worship you. No, I haven't gone stark raving mad.

If you find this letter to be totally incoherent it's all your fault. You

asked me to write off the top of my head. At this stage the only thing that will get me out any sooner is to maintain a clean slate. So, for now, Love, stay mellow and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

P.S. Thanks for all the loving vibes you enclosed in your letter.

Harry H- #054807

October 8, 1978

Dear Martin,

You certainly possess an uncanny ability in dismissing my thoughts as being sophomoric and encouraging them all in one stroke. To say that you befuddle me at times would constitute a major understatement. You are simply too smooth for your own good, Martin.

I would like to take this time to apologize if my trying to advance our relationship makes you feel ill at ease. You have placed me slightly on the defensive but I'll try not to let it distort what I have to say.

It was quite obvious that I had a need when I started writing to you. Although I could rattle off a number of things when it comes right down to it, I'm not really certain what I was looking for or what the need was. But as early as your first several letters it seemed like my need was subsiding. In retrospect, I now know the need I had was TO BE LOVED AND TO LOVE.

Since I could have a multitude of lovers right here I also know now that I wouldn't allow myself to commit my love to just anyone. My lover would have to be a very special person. You must be saying to yourself, the audacity to set such high standards when he has so very little to offer himself. That may be so but I feel I have the right to be selective if I choose and will always exercise this right.

Then you came along and charmed your way right into my heart. You are everything I ever wanted in a lover. You're charming, poetic, very bright, witty, cultured, compassionate, and creative. If I say things from time to time that make you feel uncomfortable, perhaps I can help you in this area. But, please, Martin, don't ever ask me to tone down the way I feel about you. Perhaps the problem lies in the fact I am of the school of thought that adheres to the philosophy a person should never try to mask his feelings. Should I feel forbidden to

tell you that I love you because society may not condone whirlwind love affairs? Should I hold off from expressing the love I feel for you for another six months when it might seem more appropriate?

I can understand your air of caution but must you analyze the love right out of this obviously beautiful thing we have going for us? Due to the spontaneity of our relationship do you think this automatically makes it of inferior quality? If I feel that something is right and feels good I'm going to do it and I suggest you do likewise. After all we owe it to ourselves, wouldn't you agree?

For now, Martin, stay mellow and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
October 17, 1978

Dear Martin,

First of all, let me apologize to you for not writing as often as I know I should. The conditions here are hardly conducive for writing. Furthermore, I'm finding it more and more difficult to write you because so much is lost in writing. It seems the im-

ST. LOUIS'
LEATHER & LEVI
BAR
OPEN 10 A.M.
DAILY



LEATHER
AND
WESTERN
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HIDE

pact of what I truly desire to say to you is lost on paper. It is so terribly frustrating. Many times I've torn up letters I've written to you.

On a rather promising note, I just may be in St. Louis sooner than you think. In any case definitely within the next six months.

You asked in your last letter what does love mean to me. To me love means placing the welfare of the one you love above your own. Let me take time to answer some of the other questions. The only type of books I don't care for are science fiction and westerns. I love all types of music but the music that most definitely stirs response from me is classical. I also love Spanish music. Although I can't understand a word of Spanish, when I lived in Hartford I would quite frequently listen to this all Spanish radio station. There is so much vitality in the rhythm of Spanish music. I get naturally astounded though when I listen to classical music. The types of people that turn me on are those that are honest and sincere and broad-minded. I am also turned on by those people who live their lives to their fullest. I am also turned on by adventuresome people. I can't tolerate people who are terribly dissatisfied with their status quo in

life yet are too cowardly to step out and take a chance.

Although I dislike the actions of many people I certainly don't hate any man. I dislike red tape. It seems a person can no longer do anything without first having to fill out 10 forms. I dislike parents that fail to bring out their offspring's full potential.

The last question is a difficult one to answer. To tell you the truth, I'd rather not because by doing so I may become a stumbling block. Incidentally, I used to be a devout Christian. So, for now, Martin, stay mellow and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
October 25, 1978

Dear Martin,

First of all, Love, let me clarify one issue that has undoubtedly caused you much anxiety. If our relationship continues to mature and I have no reason to believe that it won't, and providing you want me to, I will live with you upon my release. As far as providing for me is concerned, surely you didn't think I would allow you to support me. Do you think that because I am in prison my pride is no longer intact? It is true the prison experience has stripped me of many things but all the prison officials in the world could never devise any means of relieving me of my pride.

Yes, it is true, one here has absolutely no privacy. Every inmate could quite easily give a complete profile on any other inmate on the compound. Inmates here are constantly getting busted for committing so-called unnatural acts upon each other. As a matter of fact it is much more acceptable to stick someone with a shank than it is to display your love for an inmate. The red neck guards here are extremely macho oriented. If one does not conduct himself in a John Wayne manner he is suspected of being a subversive.

Martin, I'll have you know you are the most charming, gracious, witty, creative, intelligent, sensitive, loving, refined, humane, sensual and down-to-earth person it has been my good fortune to know. If anyone should do any asking it should be me asking you what you see in me. For crying out loud, Martin, I can't even tell a joke properly. Do I constantly enquire of you how is it I turn you on so much? Who knows!

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Who cares! What I'm trying to convey to you, Martin, is that the why's are not important. I'm not in love with your piercing blue eyes but the total composition that makes up the person that I like to affectionately refer to as my Martin. Stay mellow, God Bless and Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
November 12, 1978

Dear Martin,

It is now early Sunday morning and my agenda shows nothing scheduled for this glorious morning. I can think of no better way to spend it than with you, providing you don't mind my dropping in unexpectedly.

Weekend mornings--Oh how I love weekend mornings. Even though I can sleep as late as I want I never do. My weekend mornings are usually spent reading and basking in the golden silence that permeates the entire compound. I long for quietness. Being the introvert that I am I guess it's only natural though. I know it may seem difficult to fathom but do you know there was a period in my life when I was so painfully shy that the only time I went outdoors was at night. During that period of my life I was terribly lonely. While my peers were out romping with their girl friends and drinking I was living in a shell. I wanted so desperately to have a friend to talk to and understand me. While in the company of so-called normal people I never could find anything to talk about. I would always blurt out something stupid which would further reinforce my belief that I was not normal. Back then the only thing I had to combat my loneliness were my fantasies. Eventually I became friends with this guy several years my senior. He also seemed very odd but at least he provided me with an outlet for some of the things I kept pent up for so long. Then one day we had our first sexual encounter. I considered this a major breakthrough for myself on the road to becoming normal. Not much longer after that I began going to downtown Hartford. If I walked around long enough I would eventually meet an older man. They were always so very nice to me. They made me feel so very special. And, of course, they would inevitably invite me to their apartments for a bite to eat. I would always act very naive like I didn't know what they wanted from me. This factor seemed to turn them on that much more. While at their apartments some would bathe me and caress me for what seemed like hours. It seemed they could not do

enough for me. Some were gourmet cooks and fed me elaborate meals.

Having been starved for affection, quite naturally I loved every bit of it. And, I might add, they were all very nice. During this period I learned that the older a man was the nicer he had a tendency to be. The new sex I experienced with younger men was fine but I much preferred the tenderness of-fered to me by men much older.

Well, Love, until next time I'll be thinking of nothing but you. You are the only thing in my life worth devoting any thought at all. For now, Love, stay mellow and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H-#054807
November 23, 1978

Dear Martin,

Yesterday I spoke with my classification officer concerning my release and may have some good news to report in my next letter.

Today we celebrated Thanksgiving here at early eventful day. Early this morning another nascar and myself participated in the potato sack race and dreadfully came in dead last. Not to be discouraged, I next entered the tug of war contest. Upon completion of the event I once again tasted defeat as well as mud. Well, so much for my athletic prowess.

Compared to most meals our Thanksgiving meal was quite a treat. Later in the day there was a battle of the bands. The music was fine and everyone was in pretty good spirits.

Whenever I find myself having a fairly good time, Martin, I begin to think of you because I know if I'm having a good time without you I can just imagine how it would be with you. I want so much to experience everything with you. Like watching the sunset in the evening; eating a hearty breakfast on Sunday morning; reading the Sunday newspaper (New York Times) together; early morning strolls; good conversation; listening to beautiful classical music; hiding under the covers and reading naughty magazines. The list is just endless of the things we can do together.

Thank you for the super photo of yourself. I can't decide which of the two I like the best. In your most recent photo you look very astute. You also look very

full of love and joy. I'd like to believe you were thinking of me while it was being taken.

Lately, Martin, I've been acting quite cranky. I guess it's because I want to be with you in the worst way and I can't. But, like I mentioned earlier, I may be hearing some good news very shortly. I will keep you posted. For now, Sweet Love, take care and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H-#054807
November 29, 1978

Dearest Martin,

By now I had hoped on reporting to you some good news but unfortunately I still have yet to hear anything. Hope to be having good news to report to you in my next letter though.

I dislike complaining, but I will anyway. The Thanksgiving holiday was a depressing period for me. Sometimes the pain in being separated from you, Martin, becomes much too unbearable. Next Thanksgiving, Martin, promise me we can spend the entire day together. All alone. We will have a small turkey fixed with all the trimmings. We'll eat by candlelight and then we'll adjourn to the den and listen to classical music. I know it isn't true but sometimes all this seems a zillion miles away.

I know my letters lately are on the negative side, but lately I've been doing hard time. You know yourself that whenever you allow your mind to wander outside the gates, time gets difficult to cope with. Perhaps I have a one track mind but the blame lies with you.

Lights are due to go out in a few minutes, so allow me to close for now, Love. Stay mellow and God Bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H-#054807
December 4, 1978

Dear Martin,

If it's any consolation, sweetheart, you still have me. My dear Martin, the only thing I'm concerned about is your happiness. Whatever you must do to secure this, please don't consult with me, just do it. Of course, I want to be totally involved in your life so I'm not saying this out of lack of caring. You know how I feel about you. All things may come

to pass, Martin, all things, that is, excluding our undying love. With it and because of it we are made strong, we are made whole.

There was a little disappointment on my end also recently. Sometimes when an inmate gets short, the institution has been known to release him early, so that he may spend Christmas in the free world. And, since I am relatively short (referring to the time I have left on my sentence) I thought I might be one of the lucky ones this year. Such will not be the case. Needless to say, I feel quite dejected over this but I can handle it. For I know in another 3 months or perhaps less we will no longer have to love each other in such a frustrating manner as through the mail. Then we can embrace and see the flesh that is the object of our love.

I feel so guilty for I won't be able to buy you a small gift for Christmas. Next year, Martin, I promise it will take you at least an hour to open all the presents that our Christmas tree will have under it. Not expensive gifts, just little tokens of my love for you.

The reason I said not expensive is because we'll probably be living on a fairly rigid budget. A budget that will not include many foolish frills. That way we will be able to periodically afford trips. Our first might take us to New England or perhaps to San Francisco. Then, who knows, maybe we'll decide to travel abroad. How does Vienna sound? I don't know, Martin, maybe I'm talking foolish. Maybe instead of going on trips we'll put a little money aside from time to time and then completely refurbish our cozy love nest.

If my rambling is beginning to annoy you, you're at fault for it. After all, you did say you wanted plenty of open communication. Perhaps I've given you too large a dose, huh? So, let me quietly steal from your side, Love. Until then, My Sweetness, my mind and heart will unfailingly remain in union with yours. For now, Love, stay mellow and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
December 8, 1978

Dear Martin,

You can't imagine how painful it will be having to spend the coming holidays without you. Especially in view of the fact I thought there might be a possibility of

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being released by Christmas. Even though I was fully aware of the fact our Christmas would be absent of many material frills. This I know might have disturbed you initially until you learned that basically I'm a very simple person. My needs are easily met. I'm not particularly interested in fancy cars, fancy clothes, fancy food, or fancy people. Those things confuse and distort the senses. Personally I want to experience the pulse of life, not the phony garbage. Basically, my goal in life is to be happy. I wasted enough of my life in this dump and I don't plan on wasting another 20 years chasing after happiness in the form of nice cars, nice money, et cetera when there is no happiness to be found in such stupid things.

What I'm saying must sound pretty dumb but I really mean these things. I don't say them as a wild eyed radical opposed to capitalism. As far as I'm concerned what others do is entirely their business. But I can't help commenting on the futility of their means in trying to secure happiness. To me happiness means enjoying to the fullest each moment as it unfolds. The reason why so many people are unhappy is they're always to be found reflecting on the past or present, never allowing themselves to enjoy the nowness of their lives. For instance, Martin, do I make you feel good right now? If the answer is yes, enjoy that feeling to its fullest instead of allowing all the doubts and uncertainties to rob you of this feeling. Can it be all so simple as this, you may find yourself asking.

My case rests. Be happy, Martin, be alive, be tuned in to our love. It shall sustain you. You will be my food, I shall be yours.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
December 14, 1978

Dear Martin,

After reading your most recent letter I feel compelled to discuss a certain topic with you. Do you possibly think that I'm unstable, mindless, an idiot who does not know what he wants out of life from one minute to the next?

I'll have you know, Martin, that I view life as a very special thing and gravely weigh important decisions. The prospect of sharing my life with you was perhaps one of the biggest decisions I've ever had

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to make. And, while in complete command of my faculties, I made this decision and when I make commitments I honor them. I'm quite confident I'll never regret this commitment. Sure there is still so much more I would like to know about you but basically I feel I know you quite well and there is no doubt in my mind that we were designed for each other. There are so many needs I must have fulfilled. These needs can only be satisfied by you because you possess all these virtues. Sometimes, Martin, I can be quite a simple being and then at times quite complex. Do you think that some young buck could understand me in totality? What's more, do you think one would even care to? After all they would be too wrapped up protecting their own fragile egos to pay mine much regard. So, whether you like it or not, Buster, in several more months you will be the proud, or not so proud, owner of me--lock, stock, and barrel. Take care, God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
 December 19, 1978
 Dear Martin,

While I have a few minutes to spare this morning I thought I'd pay you a visit. Normally I would be found working now, but they're having some kind of safety meeting this morning for the free world employees. By the time you receive this letter you will have already celebrated Christmas. Hope it was a very enjoyable one for you. Actually I wish you spent it missing and desiring me. Maybe that is a pretty selfish thing to say but I want to be a very important part of your life. And, as such I suppose I don't want you to even feel whole without me for this is the way I feel about you. Being without you, Martin, makes me feel incomplete. I have become quite dependent on you. Do you feel that I should not be so weak or close to you? I mean, does this type of dependency on you make you feel uncomfortable?

Several days ago another inmate escaped from this institution only to be caught the following day by an off duty guard. At the time of his apprehension he was hitch hiking.

Last Friday I received a beautiful Christmas card and letter from a Christian grandmother. I was so touched by it I nearly broke down and cried. But as I'm

sure you know, crying is one luxury not afforded in prison. I have no idea where she received my name from. In her letter she told me that she enjoyed spreading a little Christmas cheer to inmates during the holidays. She then went on to tell me that the holidays are a particularly sad time for her as her husband passed away last Christmas eve. Nurses at the hospital had volunteered their talents and were singing Christmas carols to him at the time of his death. My heart was truly captured by this wonderful lady.

Your love continues to make me feel higher than I've ever felt before. Are you also receiving my love signals loud and clear, Sweetheart? Stay mellow, Love, and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
December 27, 1978

Dear Martin,

Today the sunshine state featured very cold and wet weather but we worked just the same. Presently we are filling in low points along the highway shoulders. The morning found me vigorously shoveling dirt off a truck but because of a nagging shoulder injury I was forced to flag traffic for the remainder of the day. Ordinarily I like to flag because it provides me with the opportunity to think, sing, and wave at the speeding motorists. But since it was so miserable weatherwise, I didn't think nor wave but I did sing. Quite beautifully, too, I might add. (Ha, ha)

I had a most unusual incident occur to me Christmas Day that I would like to share with you. In the early part of the afternoon I was using one of the urinals to take a leak when I noticed this guy who was using the one beside me feasting his eyes on my dong. Well, I really didn't give it a second thought since I am quite used to straights, as well as Gays, admiring my piece of equipment. Later in the day as I was taking a shower in one of the private shower stalls this same guy appears and asks me if it would be all right to join me. Before I could say anything he asked if I would mind having my back washed. I was unable to refuse the offer and said, "Sure, go ahead." Not only did this cute stud wash my back but also my hair, feet, and all over. He saved my private region to wash last. To do this, he lowered himself to his knees

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and with soft slow strokes he washed my tool. After a few minutes he placed my throbbing hunk in his warm mouth and proceeded to give me perhaps the best head I have ever received. I was surprised he could fit so much of me into his mouth. Soon I exploded in him.

It was a most enjoyable Christmas and I hope I have not offended you in any way by relating this incident. I would like to believe we have an honest and open relationship. Oh, Martin, I miss you so much that I truly wonder whether I'm going to be able to cope with the little time I have remaining. During my weak moments I call upon your love to give me strength. Thank you so very much for never letting me down during these sometimes trying moments. So, for now, Love, stay mellow and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

Harry H- #054807
January 1, 1979

Dear Martin,

Hoping this letter finds you vigorously enjoying the New Year. Things got a little wild around here last night. For about an hour after midnight all hell broke loose. Rather than risk becoming involved, I simply stayed in my room. Glad to report though that no one was injured during the celebration. On a rather humorous note, while this was going on, two inmates were caught screwing in the mop closet and were quickly escorted to confinement.

Believe it or not, up until about a year ago whenever they caught two guys getting it on they would contact, by way of an official letter, the folks of the two guys involved. Can you imagine the total shock of the mothers and fathers upon being informed that their precious son was caught while engaged in a homosexual act? Or, better yet, can you imagine the dismay of the wives upon learning of this news about their husbands whom they had thought were just as straight as an arrow?

All in all I had a fairly decent day yesterday. After lunch a casual friend dropped by and we played some handball. We played a total of 7 games with yours truly only capturing one victory. Oh well, it could have been worse, I could have lost them all. After that I slipped into my mini-cutoffs (I love to show off my beautiful bronzed legs whenever I can) and together we jogged for about three miles. Later that evening I went

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Harry H- #054807
January 6, 1979

Dear Martin,

My Dear Martin, you sure ask some of the damndest questions. Of course I presented that other guy on Christmas eve with a present. You read between the lines very poorly my sweet Martin. Actually I'm only kidding as that was a fair question to ask. I guess the real reason I did not describe my own present to him was that it should have been obvious. Contrary to what you might be thinking, Martin, I am by no means a selfish lover. Quite to the contrary as a matter of fact for I derive more pleasure and satisfaction from satisfying my lover than myself. I really hadn't given the matter any thought until right now but maybe that is the reason I didn't mention my role. If I had it might have gotten a wee bit too naughty. And, if there is one thing I don't want to do is run afoul of the censors. So far they have been tolerant but even they have their limitations.

Yesterday I quit my post as editor of the Rhymes and Reason section of the newspaper. In the newspaper's most recent edition I read for the last time a butchered up ver-

With one of my roommates to the movie. We saw this dumb detective movie called Harper. Paul Newman starred in this vintage dud. This morning I went again to the movie with the same roommate and saw a very funny comedy starring Peter Sellers. How I wish it were you beside me, Martin, instead of my roommate.

How I wish I could write poetry, Martin. How I wish I could sit down and put in poetry exactly what you mean to me and how I feel about you. It would seem like the natural thing for me to do since I am overly romantic. But the truth of the matter is I have tried to express my love for you in the form of poetry and the sad truth is I have failed miserably. There have been days when I have racked my brain for hours thinking of some nice thing I could do for you. Tell me, Martin, for right now would you be satisfied if I simply told you that I love you more than ice cream? And, for that matter every-thing else with, of course, the possible exception of Marlon Brando. No need to get upset, Martin, I was only kidding. Stay mellow, love and God bless--Shalom.

Love, Harry

It Ain't Necessarily So

by JERRE FRAZIER

relationships with the expectation that they will endure for life.

Of course someone will come up with the challenge: Gay bars and cruising spots are overrun with single gay people on the hunting trail. Is it really true? Using the accepted percentage of ten percent, the estimated number of gay people in the St. Louis metropolitan area is more than 200,000. Have you tried counting the singles in the bars and cruising spots? Published figures by the "This is what's wrong with you" professionals state that there are 52 million lonely singles who have lost their way. Their count is wrong because at least 520 thousand of that number are gay people and we know a large share of those people do not belong in the "lonely singles" group.

Don't you think this

"lonely single" disease is an affliction of the straight community? Aren't we gays fortunate to be able to point to our high percentage of meaningful and successful bondings?

It's time we examine carefully the proclamations of the so-called experts on matters of love and life because very few of those researchers (?) admit to themselves or others that at least ten percent of the population is homosexual. If they ignore or deliberately overlook such a fact, how can their conclusions be true? When the game is played with loaded dice it can't be anything but crooked.

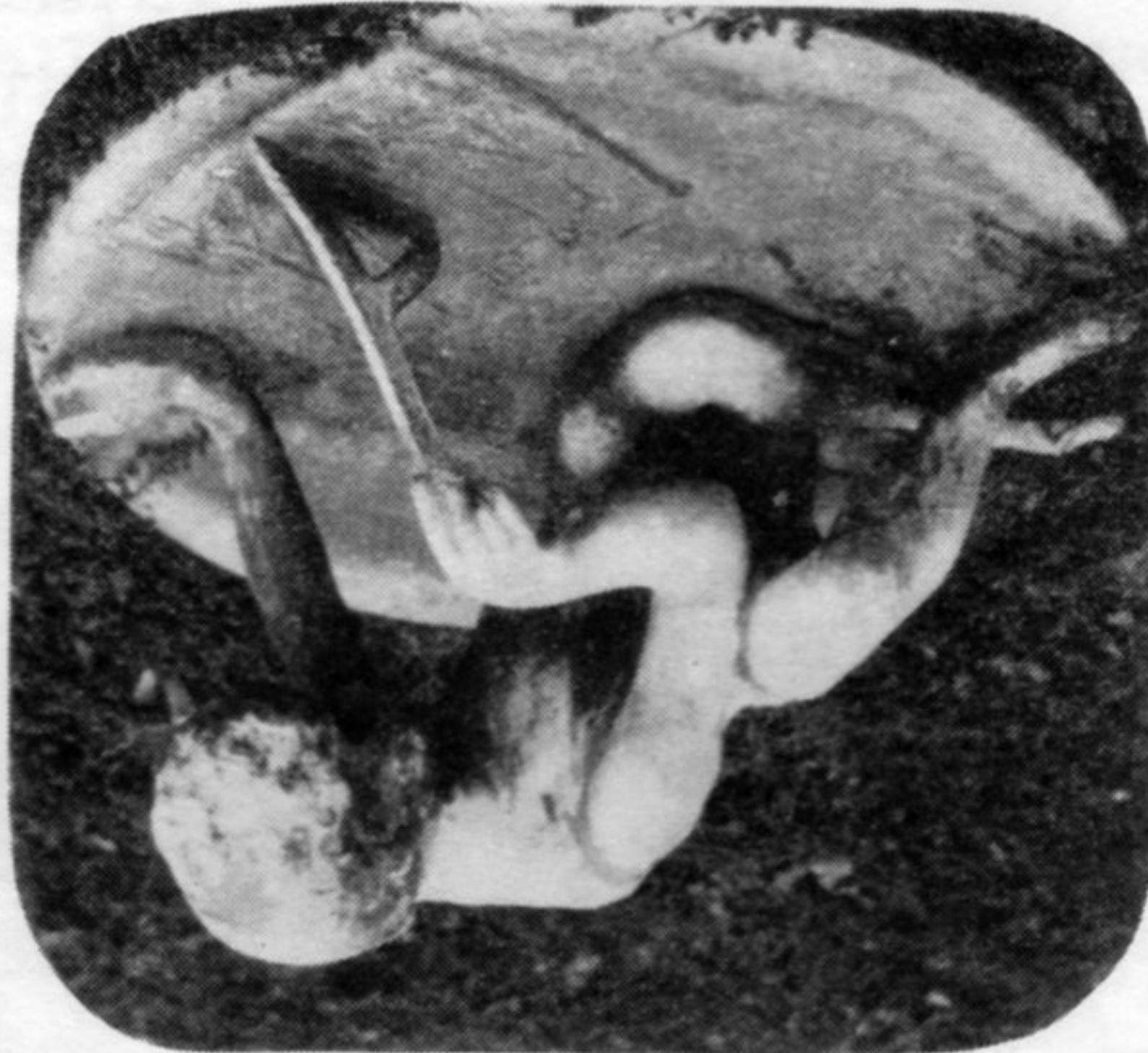
We need to develop our own professionals who will apply honest recording and non-discriminatory interpretations. That's why the program of the Gay Academic Union for providing scholarships for openly gay students is important to the future of all gay people.

Don't let all the stuff the psychiatrists, sociologists, economists, social workers, and epistemists broadcast about "lonely singles" scare you. What they say may be more or less true for the straight community. But most clear thinking gay people have come to realize that very few social statistics summarized by straight people will hold true with gays.

In this latest kick of statistical prognostication the professionals are on --newspapers, magazines, TV and radio-- all unmarried women and men are being lumped in the "lonely singles" bracket. Stop and think about it. Aren't at least two-thirds of your gay friends into serious committed relationships? So, you can see for yourself that the "experts" (?) are off base with their figures. Just because the state has not issued marriage licenses to Gary and Paul, or to Sue Ann and Marie, they are singles in the eyes of the researchers, regardless of the fact that they have been living as couples for years. "Experts" do not see gay relationships.

Men and women into same sex caring/sharing relationships are not "lonely losers." They are motivated and productive as a result of fulfillment of the natural desire of the human being to be bonded in a loving relationship with another human.

Actually gay people seem to find the need for bonding almost a necessity for peace and progress. This need often rises early in the self-recognition and coming-out process. Gay community social workers, counselors, and phone answerers are often surprised by the teenagers who speak of their on-going love rela-



It Ain't Necessarily So

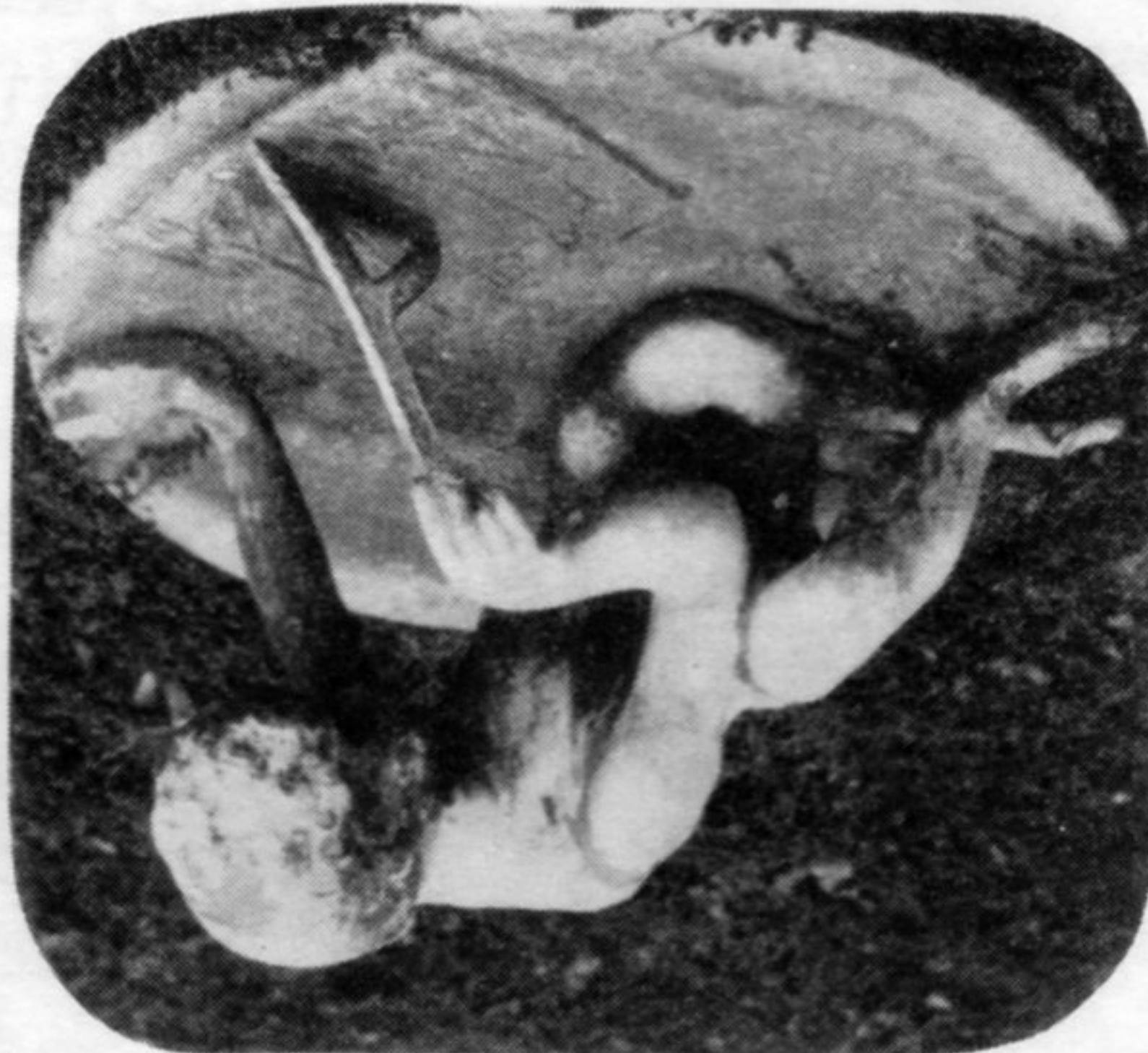
by JERRE FRAZIER

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GAY ROOTS

by MARVIN H. KAYE

There are times when Gay people, especially the younger ones, wonder whether the struggle for equal rights has really accomplished much at all, whether all our meetings, our demonstrations, our fighting, and our tears, have changed American society at all, whether we should continue to put our energy into the struggle. But if we look back only 15 or 20 years, we can see the phenomenal changes in American society.

In the early 1960's, when I first realized I was Gay, I went to the public library to find out about homosexuality. I found only four or five books on the subject, all of which I was too scared to check out, fearing the librarian would instantly guess my secret. So I came home with Freud's, Three Theories of Sexuality, which were little help. I learned later that the other books would not have helped me either. When I looked for role models, all I could find were the stereotypical effeminate males, the super-butch females, and drag queens, no football players, teachers, doctors, or writers. When I went to college, there were no campus groups for Gay women and men. Indeed, there were only two national Gay groups, Mattachine, and the Daughters of Bilitis, neither of which was very open, though each provided support for its members and engaged in some legal activities.

In the 1960's, it was not easy to find Gay bars. There were no Gay newspapers or Gay hotlines, and the one or two bar guides that existed were difficult to obtain and full of errors. Our Gay bars were always in the worst and most dangerous areas

of cities, areas no "respectable" person would enter, and were often raided by police. As recently as 1969, St. Louis police raided Gay bars just after midnight on Halloween and arrested around 25 people for cross-dressing. Dancing together in a Gay bar was sometimes grounds for arrest. Heterosexuals almost never came to a Gay bar, for we were then not chic, but sick, or depraved, or sinful. Besides, Gay women and men did not "come out" to their non-Gay friends, for fear of losing those friends, or having their "condition" become public knowledge. The very term "coming out" in the 1960's meant accepting one's Gayness enough to be "public" in the sense of going to a Gay bar. But there was little pride in this step, only a passive acceptance of one's fate.

Homosexual activity between consenting adults was legal only in Illinois, and that only since 1962. And only six years ago, two state representatives, from southwest Missouri, submitted a bill in the state legislature requiring all homosexuals having any kind of dealings (such as teaching) with individuals under 21, to register with the state. The idea of Gay people openly lobbying for equal rights on the state or federal level was considered naive and visionary in the 1960's. Having non-stereotyped Gay women and men on TV, or even in films, was thought of as possible only in the distant future. The very subject of homosexuality was kept deep in the closet. No one was willing to discuss it. Even in radical groups, the subject was not brought up, for the mere mention of

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

NATIONAL NOTES

FCC RULE CHANGE: The Federal Communications Commission is currently

considering rule changes that would add "homosexuals" to their list of recognized minorities. This change would affect broadcast media in several ways, all of them good for gay people. We urge you to write to the FCC in support of this change. We also urge you to write to them any time something on tv or radio offends you. Any complaint made to the FCC becomes a part of the broadcast station's record and is considered seriously when the station's license comes up for renewal annually.

OREGON TASK FORCE REPORT: The state of Ore-

gon Department of Human Resources Task Force on Sexual Preference has issued a report listing 31 recommendations to eliminate discrimination against homosexual men and women in the areas of government services and employment; health and medical treatment; education; programs for senior citizens; employment; housing and public accommodations; criminal law and police relations; and families and children. The report, the first government report of its kind in this nation, also includes sections on "A Matter of Morality?", "A Threat to Marriage and the Family?", "Is Sex Just for Reproduction?", and "The Concern about Child Molesting". The report, issued to "inform and educate the public," is available from the Task Force on Human Preference, 607 Corbett Building, Portland, Ore., 97204. Cost is \$5.00 mailed fourth class or \$6.50 mailed first class. Examples of specific recommendations are: Colleges and universities which train social workers, clinical psychologists and others who counsel parents and children should include in their curriculum training in the counseling of parents and children when the parents are homosexual. A homosexual parent and his or her children, along with the other adult in the home, should be viewed as a viable family unit; A legal arrangement should be instituted which would permit a person to designate a non-relative to act in place of next-of-kin for medical legal purposes; In public schools where sex education is part of the standard curriculum...that education should include the subject of homosexuality.

the word was sufficient to label the speaker as "one of them."

We have come a long way, brothers and sisters. When looking at our present situation, compare it with the recent past to see what we have accomplished. We have brought about these changes, with our struggles, our demonstrations, our coming out. We have helped from the women's movement, and from organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union, but we did the major work ourselves. We can be proud, and we must be proud. But we also must not stop here. We still have much to accomplish in terms of sexual freedom and equal rights. We can look back at the accomplishments of the past 15 years, and from that gain the pride, the hope, and the assurance to do even more in the next 15 years, and beyond that, until we all have equal rights, until we all are free.

LOVE LETTERS FROM A PRISON CONTINUED

I don't know what it was about that last letter from Harry which sounded a warning--almost ignored it--but the requested money, in the form of a cashier's check was sent to the Superintendent of the institution with the statement that if, for any reason, Harry was not being paroled to St. Louis, the check should be returned.

January 29, 1979
Dear Mr. Martin Marshall:

I am writing in response to your letter and returning your check as requested.

I am not familiar with your correspondence with inmate Harry H-, but it appears that he has misled you to believe something that is not correct. His tentative expiration date is August 11, 1980. His adjustment does not warrant a release recommendation, furthermore he has not received a parole in that he is scheduled for a parole interview within April, 1979.

Please let me know if I can be of further service to you.

Sincerely,

M-S-, Superintendent

The guy really had me going, sold me a bill of goods. If all that stuff was fiction, and I suspect it was, he should be devoting his time to writing--ought to bring him a fortune.

The View From The Closet

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Union Park Press

By A. Nolder Gay



I'm usually a fairly reasonable creature (as gay university professors go), but every so often I encounter something which really sets me off. On one such occasion, the cause was an ad in a gay publication noted, perhaps, more for its financial success than for the standard of its contents.

The ad in question offered the presumably receptive gay male public a "penetrable boy doll, available in 3 provocative positions." This life-sized artificial sex object, in soft vinyl, comes with optional equipment, including (on the \$49.95 model) "a realistic penis that vibrates and ejaculates." All models feature a "penetrable open mouth (Deep Throat)" and "penetrable rectal area (Deep Ass)." And, we are told, "he's all yours to love."

Far out! Some bright California con artists (latest in a regional series dating back to the Gold Rush) have become midwives (or midpersons) to what I fervently hope is some kind of ultimate, the bastard offspring of a passionate coupling between gay fantasy and American high-energy-wasting technology. All this courtesy of a firm calling itself "Executive Aids," whose other devices to alleviate those board-room blues include an even grosser item, "the autosuck vagina." For only \$19.95, you may purchase a device which "operates from your car's cigarette lighter...Listen to your radio while you do your thing!"

Just think of the convenience of a plastic lover "that will fill your needs" (according to the ad, anyway). When Mom calls

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unexpectedly and announces that she's in town and coming right over, there's no sweat about defagifying the apartment. All you have to do is shove Plastic Boy into the nearest closet and "Gee, Mom, glad you dropped by!"

No worries about running into old college friends at the movies and having them wonder why you're accompanied by a guy with a Lamda pendant or an extra-revealing pair of denims or perhaps a too elegantly marcelled hair-style. No need for coping with a real roommate when you can have a plastic one. Faster-acting than a tranquilizer, less demanding than the sleaziest of porno books, cheaper than hustlers or models, and absolutely no risk of v.d., blackmail or entrapment! What more could one ask?

Of course what upsets one most about these kinds of gay-oriented businesses is the pitiless ripoff of the deepest emotional needs of its target audience. Many of us have known the anguish of body and spirit which comes out of extreme loneliness and the desire, natural in all mammals to the best of my knowledge, for close, warm, touching companionship. Even my cat Mischief, standoffish though she is in most respects, has her moments of wanting to be touched, cuddled, stroked, warmly held.

How much more is this true of gays who, either as a result of society's hangups or of the rejection they have experienced at the hands of other gays, cannot seem to find satisfaction for this basic need? The unyoung, the unbeautiful, the unwhite perhaps, the un-sharply-dressed, the un-middle class, the un-educated, the uncertain (have we reached the gay majority yet?) need someone to love, and someone to be loved by, just as deeply as the young and the beautiful.

So they (we) become targets of the ever-multiplying, ever-flourishing breed of rip-off artists, blatantly trading on basic human needs, selling fantasy through plastic and other carcinogenic substitutes for a rewarding life. Sometimes it's plastic boy dolls to "fill your needs;" sometimes it's hair restoration treatments to make you look younger in the half-light of the local bar; the other day it was the story of a middle-aged gay minister turned out of his post in a New England city for "counseling" young gay males through sex therapy - with him! Yecch!

One might argue, of course, that we ask for it in some sense; that con artists do

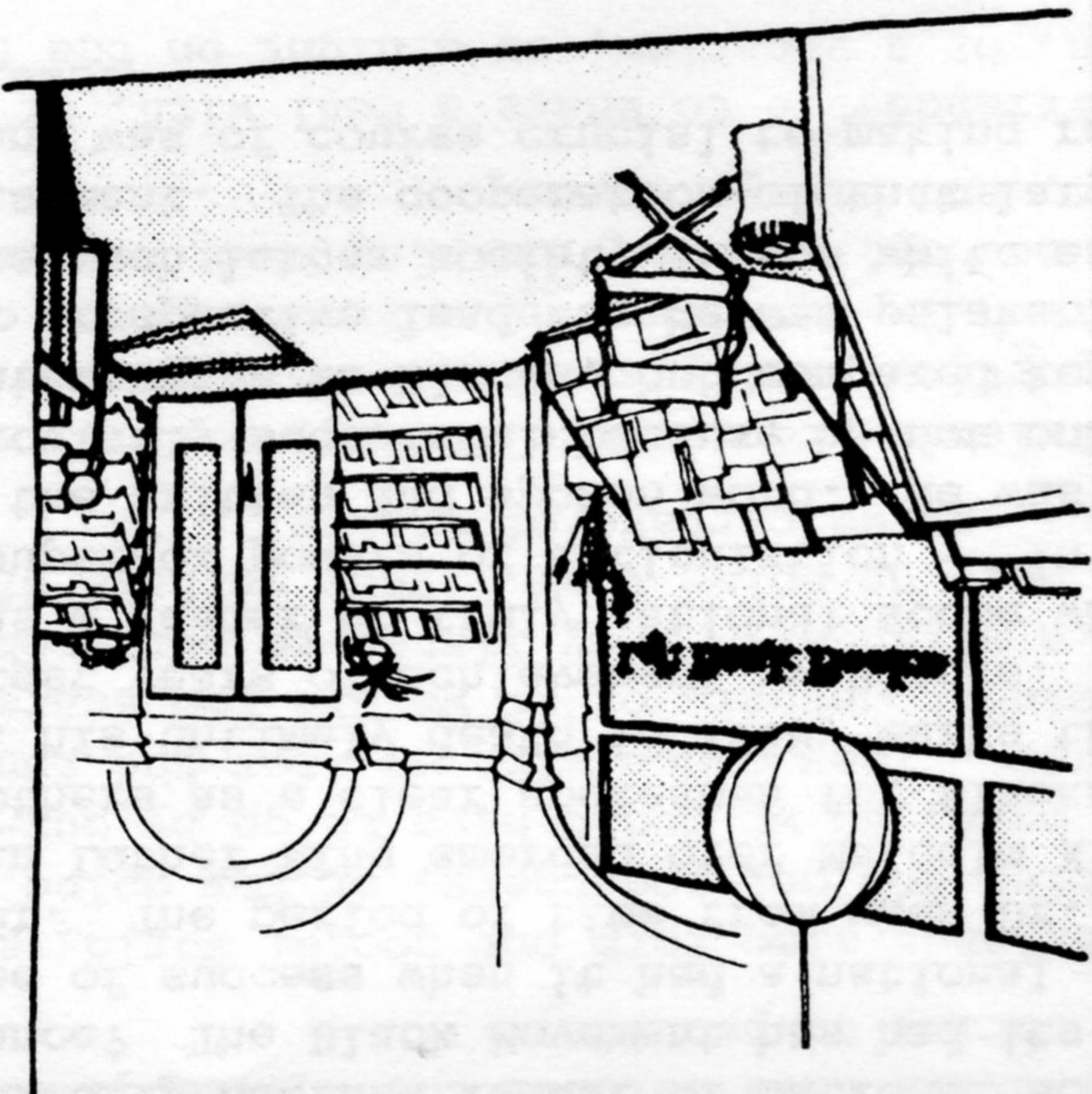


tionist images which those outside our life-
style and hostile to it had set before us,
and these in turn curtailed and distorted
our capacity for growth. These barriers are
now being burned away, as we develop sup-
port groups, a gay literature, gay-owned
businesses catering to our real needs, new
perspectives on our minds and spirits.
We are free to like ourselves, to reach out
in love to others, to liberate the positive
forces latent within us, to begin to con-
struct that fuller and more comprehensive
account of who we are and what this life is
for. I thank God that these possibilities
have been opened to gay people in my life-
time.

In the new world of wholeness, of human-
ness, of supportive relationships, this
world, which lies at the end of our extended
hand, there should no longer be room for the
schlock merchant and the con artist. Anath-
ema maranatha, Executive Aids! May you boil
to death in a steaming vat of your own
plastic!

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not flourish unless there is a target group
not only comable but also in some sense
willing to be conned. Plastic Boy is indeed
easier, safer, more convenient than a real-
live flesh-and-blood lover who breaks wind
under the same bedsheet and starts coming
alive at parties when you're ready to go home
and is just as insufferable at times as you
are yourself. And we can always blame "soci-
ety" for our own unwillingness to take the
risks, emotional and otherwise, of gay rela-
tionships, whether "relationships" in this
context means with friends, with a live-in
lover, or with those on the happy and con-
fusing scale in between.

I have a feeling, though, that we are
never going to get anywhere in building a
sane and constructive gay subculture until we
begin to act on the premise that every human
being we meet deserves at least the degree of
warm feelings we would give to our cats (or
poodles or whatever.) I don't want to decry
what David Rothenburg has called "the polit-
ical components of gay activism" in the
least. But it is the human component of be-
ing gay which is our acid test and our
Achilles heel; it is the quality of those
human relationships we build, within and
outside the gay community, which will be the
ultimate justification of our political
successes.

I guess that the real reason I'm upset
about Plastic Boy is because it plays to what
somebody (probably straight) thinks are my
most basic needs as a gay man, and in so do-
ing unacceptably narrows me as a human being.
Nobody has the right to reduce me to the
masturbatory partner of a plastic same-sex
image. I'm a whole gay human being, and
I've got a lot more to give to the world as
such than just a load of seminal fluid,
dammit! And so has every other gay human
being, male or female, black or white, old
or young. Sex is part of it, touching is
part of it, loving is part of it, caring is
part of it, thinking is part of it. Being
human as well as being gay -- that's pretty
much all of it.

In his response to the award of a Nobel
Prize for literature a few years ago, novel-
ist Saul Bellow took note of "an immense,
painful longing for a broader, more flexible,
fuller, more coherent, more comprehensive
account of what we human beings are, who we
are, and what this life is for." Until
fairly recently, we gays have lacked that
perspective; we have not known who we are
and what we can be; we had only the reduc-



by DAN SHAPIRO

Movements have flourished or floundered depending on the quality of their leadership. Our own Gay Rights, as a movement, is relatively recent compared to the Women's and Black Rights Movements, and as of yet, Gay people have not had a full-fledged national leader. We would do well to examine other movements to gain some insight into what kind of leader might be successful for our own.

Is it necessary for a movement to have one clearly defined leader of national acceptance? The Black Movement has had its degree of success when it had a national leader. The period of time from when Dr. Martin Luther King emerged over Malcolm X and others as a clear spokesman for Blacks, until his untimely death in 1968, marks the greatest years of achievement by Blacks. He was a leader of truly national scope who had superior powers of articulation -- in both the written and spoken word. He was particularly successful because he not only was attractive to Blacks, but compared to other prospective leaders, he was palatable to the much larger society -- the white establishment. The cooperation of that larger element was of course crucial to making real progress.

King had attributes which made him a superior leader. In style and in manner he seemed reasonable. He had exceptional ability to persuade and move people to action. He was charismatic. He had a dream and inspired others to have that dream also. He was non-violent and non-extremist. Dr. King was an exceptional leader who obtained a

great deal of progress for his people and changed our whole society. Our country will never be the same and it is a better place because he was here.

It is a tribute to the Reverend King that, even though it has been over a decade since his death, no one in the Black community has been able to fill the vacuum. The Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Julian Bond, Jesse Jackson and others have tried to replace him but no one has fully emerged. Jesse Jackson may possibly be moving into that position and may yet prove to be that national leader. It remains to be seen.

The modern Women's movement and its leadership deserve some attention also -- not for its success but for its "failings." I say "failings" because -- even though it has had considerable accomplishments in focusing attention on injustices -- it has not succeeded in its primary goal (ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment).

We associate the earlier American Women's movement (the suffragette era) with Susan B. Anthony emerging as a clear leader. The later Women's movement (the ERA period) is notable in that there is no clear spokesperson who has emerged. Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinam, Eleanor Smeal, Bella Abzug, all talented women in their own right, but not one of them is the leader of the "crusade." Not one of them is the type of individual who has appeal to the larger body politic -- needed for passage of the amendment. All of the aforementioned women are perceived as "east coast - liberal - pushy broad types." Whether they are or not is irrelevant. The fact is -- they are seen that way. The movement would have greater success if it had cultivated a midwest or sun belt housewife type who was not necessarily threatening in style and manner, as well as background.

Defusing the opposition is not new. Richard Nixon, the supreme anti-communist, leading the way for recognition of Red China, is a classic example of that technique. Blacks embracing the non-violent Reverend King helped defuse their opposition. The ERA period of the Women's movement is an example of where this was not done. Not only did they not settle on a spokesperson but

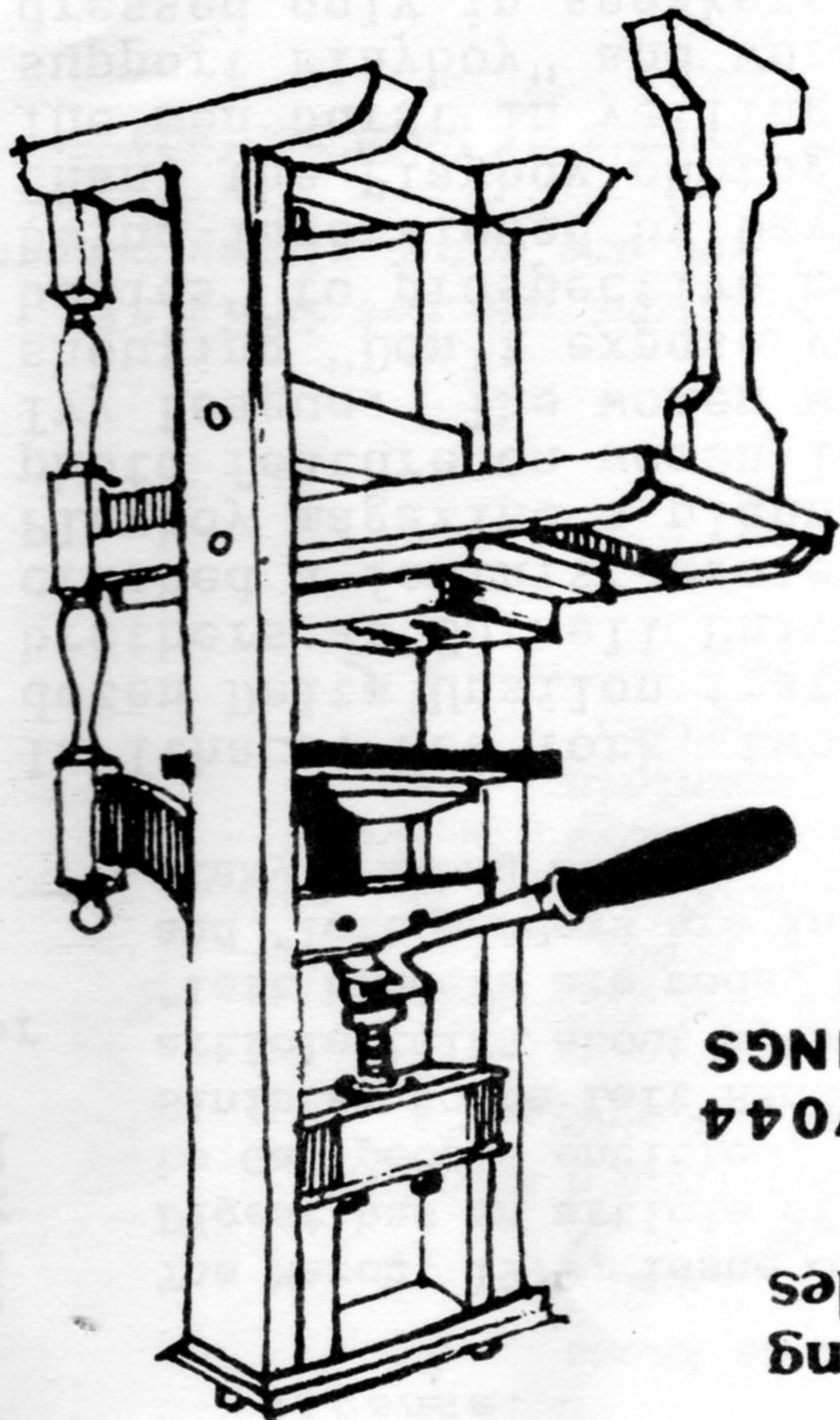
the several that took the forefront were "threatening" -- not so much to men but to women who wanted to preserve some semblance of the family unit.

What is the lesson for the Gay Rights movement then? We need a national leader if we are going to maximize success. He or she must be a strong individual who possesses the usual superior qualities of leadership (charismatic, articulate and persuasive). Beyond that, this person must be someone who strips the opposition of its stereotypical attitudes about gay people. I will be more blunt! If it is a woman leader she can not look like she just stepped out of the driver's seat of a taxi. If it is a man he cannot be from the ranks of the "screaming Nelly" minority of our populace.

We have had those who met some of the qualities of a national leader. Sgt. Matlovich, David Kopay, Christopher Isherwood, Elaine Noble and a few others were candidates for the leader, but for one reason or another lacked one or more of the crucial elements of being leader. We must continue the search!

Printing
by Cordes

423-7044
EVENINGS



You Gotta Have Friends

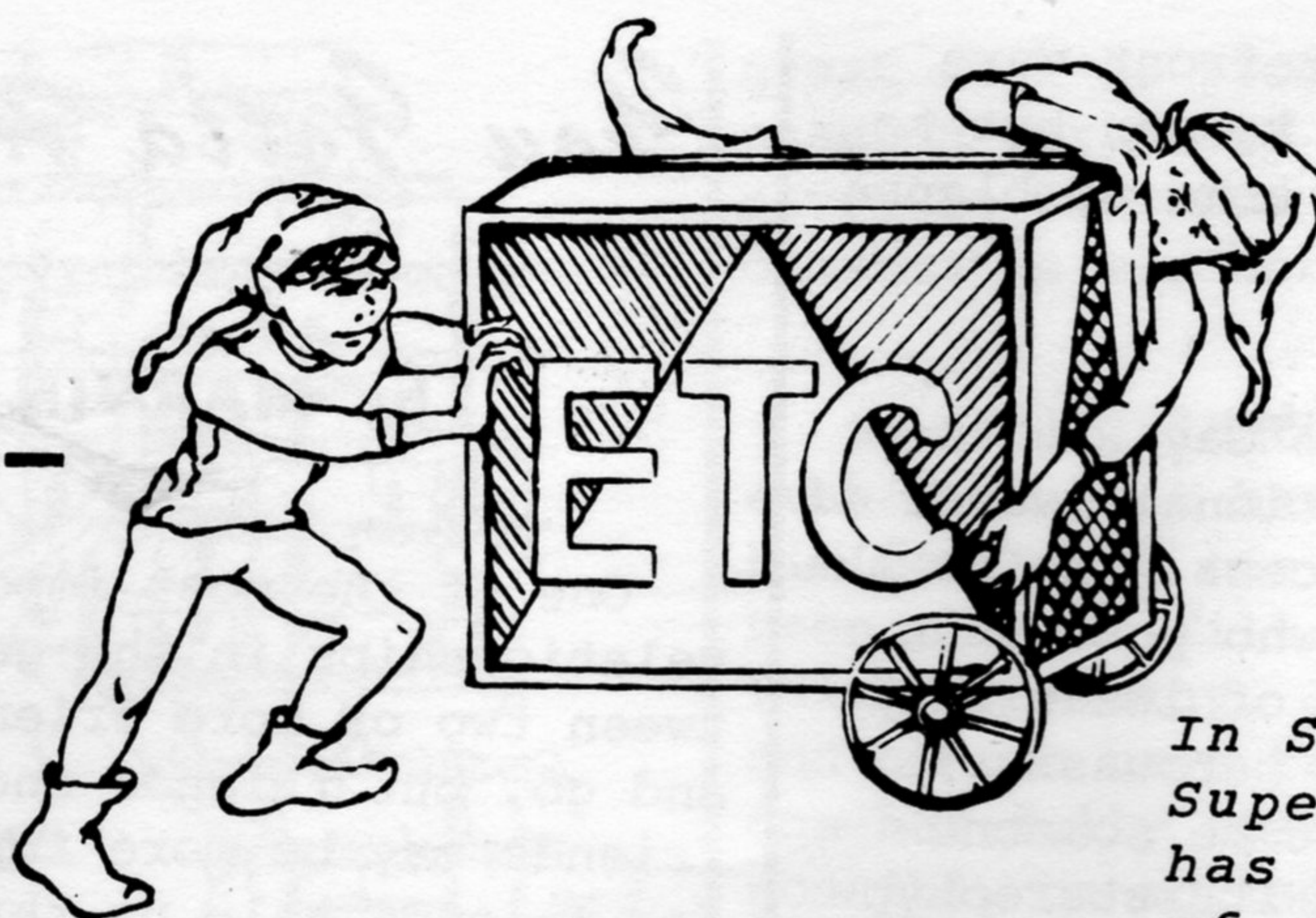
by MARVIN H. KAYE

One of the most important, yet overlooked relationships in the gay world is that between two or more friends. Lovers may come and go, but friends endure. In some ways, friends may be more important than lovers, for friends help us through the difficult process of accepting ourselves as gay, and become our teachers in the discovery of gay life. Friends provide our social arena so that we may escape any sense of loneliness or alone-ness. Friends form our new families if our blood families cannot accept us as we are. And friends provide someone to talk to in times of joy, and a shoulder to cry on in times of pain.

Our knowledge of the gay world comes not from schools or even from books, but from friends who have been through it. They provide information on the pitfalls and the joys, on where to go to meet other people, on how to cruise, on what to do and how to do it well. When we have questions, they provide the answers. Friends become our teachers and our therapists, giving what straight professionals have neither the knowledge nor the caring to provide.

Friends also form our social world, at parties and get-togethers, or for going to the bars, so we don't have to go by ourselves. They dance with us, for the fun of dancing together, or if we are too scared to ask a stranger. They listen to our problems and help us solve them. They partake of our ideas, as we partake of theirs. Friends provide the loving, caring, and supportive family structure we may have lost, sharing in our joys and sorrows, proud of our accomplishments, helping when we need them, and always there. Friends are to share a meal with, or an idea, or a vacation, or a night on the town. Friends need not be plentiful. One or two really good friends will suffice. But without a friend to love, and be loved by, caring, and giving, and loving, we would each be alone.

So, as the woman sang, "You gotta have friends."



Two elderly women, high society types, were vacationing in Florida, where they met a third, more common woman. In order to establish their rank, they began talking about their famous sons. The first began, "My dear, my son is the most famous doctor in the world. Why he treats kings and presidents the world over." The second added, "And my son is the world's most famous attorney. He is called in for work on international treaties and billion dollars deals. Do you have a famous son?" The little woman shook her head and said, not too sadly, "No. My son is a plumber, but he is very good and does just fine financially. Not only that, he is gay." With that the first two gasped and showed definite signs of disgust. The woman continued, "Oh, but that is not so bad at all. He has marvelous friends. Why just last week I was in his apartment in New York and he introduced me to two of his best friends, the world's most famous doctor and attorney."

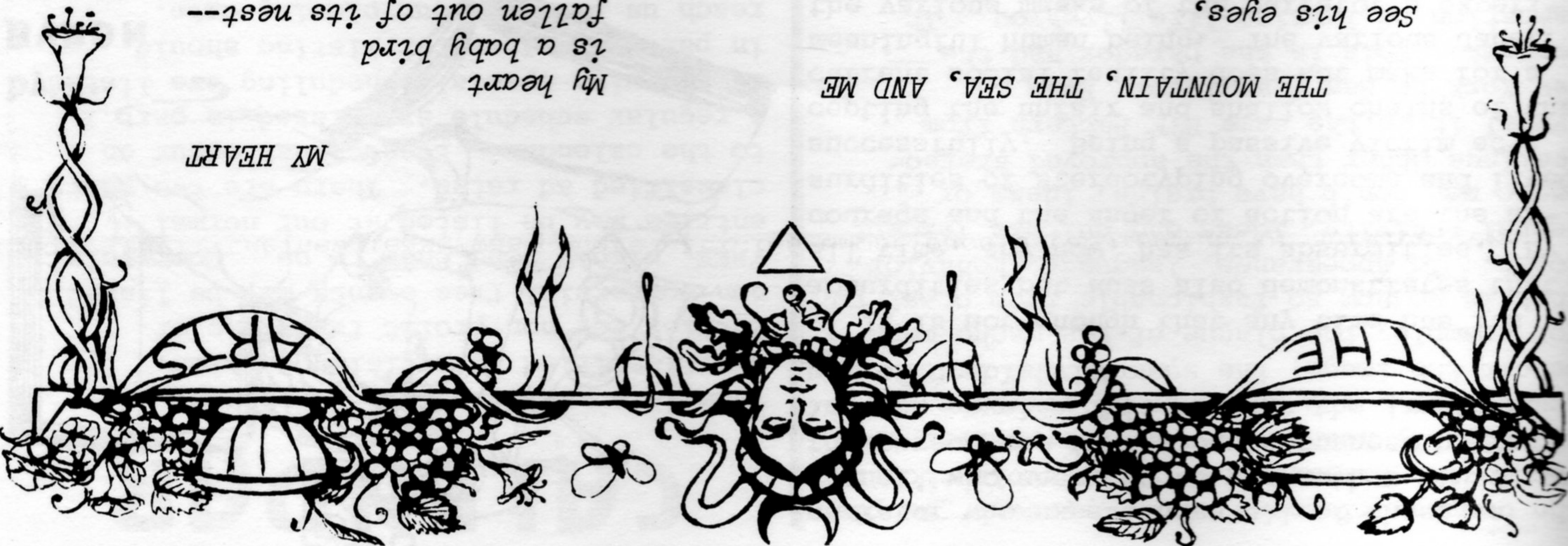
LOUISE HUEBNER SAID: Freedom goes along with control. People who are not free are unable to control themselves. They are slaves to the inner mind. That may sound like a contradiction, but I have never believed that suppression indicates control. You don't control a wild horse by merely keeping him chained; you control him by teaching him how to use his freedom.

In San Francisco, a Superior Court judge has approved an out-of-court settlement of a seven million dollar lawsuit against plastic surgeon John Brown and an associate of Brown's, James Spence. Brown has performed sex-change surgery on Charles Beatty, who claimed that the operation had left him neither a him nor a her. Shortly after the settlement, Brown was arrested and jailed for several counts of issuing a prescription without a license.

The March, 1979, issue of *Reader's Digest* has an article of interest to Gay people entitled, "Is it Sinister to be Left Handed?". The article talks about myths like "left handers are made, not born" and "left handers are inferior and flaky", among others.

In Ithaca, New York, two dozen Delta Upsilon fraternity brothers at Cornell University crashed a feminist protest of *Playboy* magazine's planned photo feature on women in the Ivy League. The women were shouting "Don't expose your bodies" to prospective models being interviewed by David Chan, the *Playboy* photographer. The men burst in yelling "We support *Playboy*" and were dressed only in sneakers and athletic supporters.

----- **notes & quotes** -----



MY HEART

My heart
is a baby bird
fallen out of its nest--

fragile,
vulnerable,
needing loving hands
cupped and shielding
to carry it safely
to its destiny.

Care for it
my love,
It will soar.
It will
soar.

ANNOUNCEMENT TO A PASSEBY

Congratulations!
I am pleased
to announce
that by unanimous
vote, you have
just become my
fantasy lover.

GONE

Together
locked in passion's dying gasp
we rush straight ahead
through the black
cosmic void.
A snowstorm of stars surrounds us.
Touching you
in this giant intimacy,
I feel estranged
and pull away.
The stars
disappear,
and
I can't see you anymore.

THE MOUNTAIN, THE SEA, AND ME

See his eyes,
a brown-green sea.
Storms of feeling
surge to me;
they wash
and leave me dripping,
cold, and
pale.

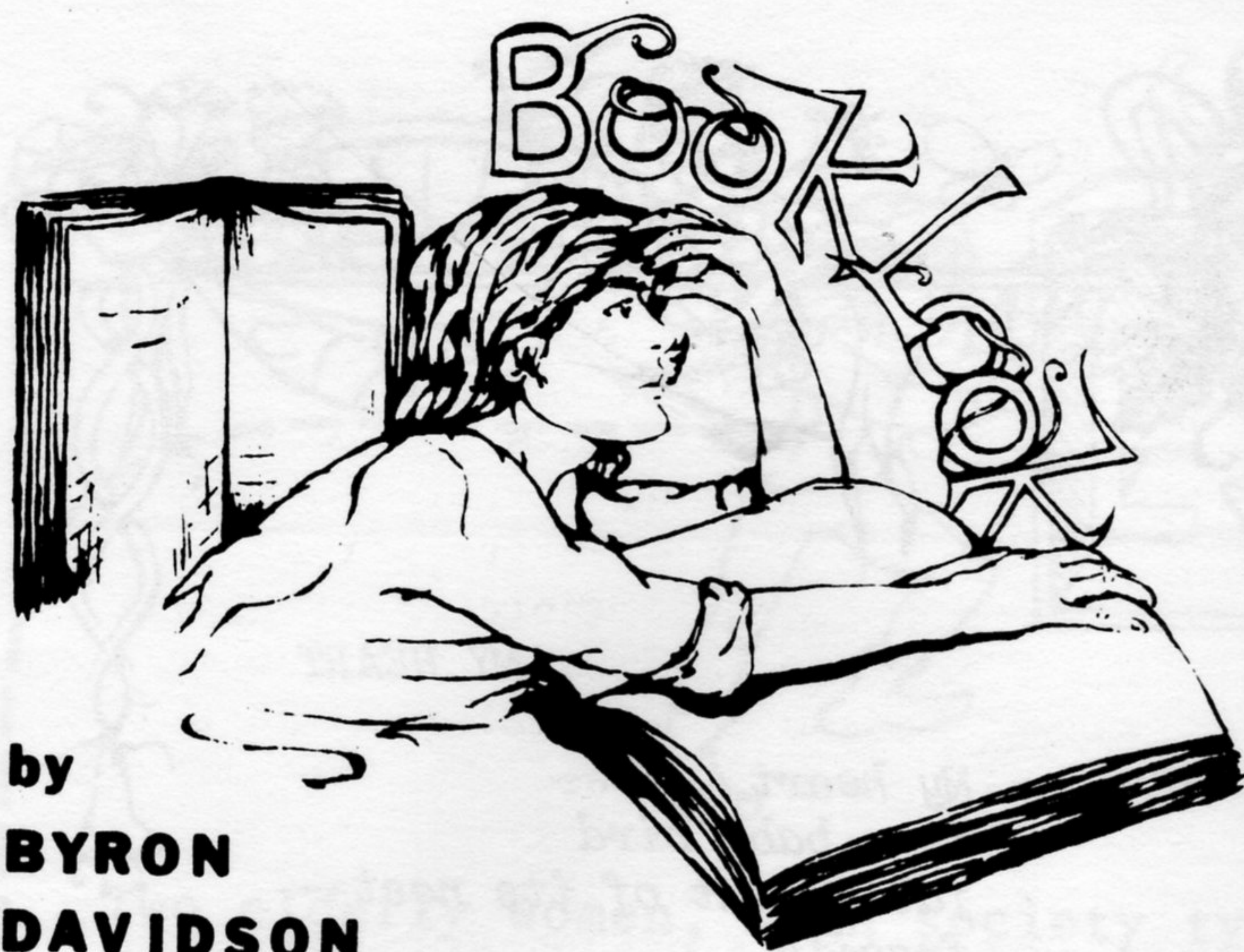
Things
are floating in the swim,
I can't return to him.
A
hopeless,
rising,
shriek
becomes a wail.

And he knows
my heart goes
to he
who climbs a mountain
near the shore.

Grey and formless
is my mood.
Disembodied, in the nude,
I soar above the three--
the mountain
and the sea
and me.

To Kathy:

Your manipulations are not invisible.
Though you are not a clumsy puppeteer
I watch -
For a glimpse of your strings
I'my hooks
You pull
How skillfully you strip my psyche
Like peeling an orange.



by
**BYRON
DAVIDSON**

Joanna Russ, The Female Man, Bantam, 1978, \$1.75.

Want to start a fight? Read this outrageous underground classic. I have heard this book called feminist trash, a science fiction gem, a wildly touching and funny experience of being an object of the heterosexual male reality. It is all of these things and more. The only real difficulty with the book is getting used to multiple viewpoints of the same character's complex psyche. This is new wave fiction for those used to straight sequence plot and characterization. It is rather like fruitcake. Little bits of this and that hidden in the batter. It isn't until you've bitten and tasted that bite that the flavor and richness of that piece fills you and sometimes overwhelms you.

In some ways this may not be a good book for a Gay audience. For a person with a sense of confusion, outrage and pain about how they are treated by others The Female Man may well sharpen this sensitivity. One of the lights of the book which prevents it from becoming a painful catalog of wrongs is its insight and humor. Russ has a knack of covering the wounds with the honey of irony and double vision. She presents the truth as it is seen and then how it is felt. The truth she examines is not that of right, compassion or fair play. It is the truth of society. It is not the truth of humanity or love.

The plot of the novel explores the social, personal and sexual roles of the present as experienced by time travels from our future, from an alternate future, from a parallel future and an omniscient view that is a synthesis of all these viewpoints. Throughout the novel there is a unifying voice of a

narrator who experiences all of these, a 'Janet' who seems to be the author, Russ, or the person who is the consciousness narrating the novel. This creates the ironic humor of double vision.

It is not enough that any time has its absurdities but Russ also demonstrates that all time, any now, has its absurdities. By courage and the anger of action are the absurdities of stereotyping overcome and lived successfully. Being a passive victim accepting the unfair and shallow chains of the current social reality does not make for a meaningful human being. The various Janets: the various masks of the narrator's experience makes this more than a concept, but a lived and felt reality.

The Female Man is about (does an experience have to "be about something," mean something, be rational, normal, safe, common, ordinary - Edith and Archie Bunker ideas of what a plot or life is suppose to be?) liberation. It is the liberation of growth and transformation of psyche/soma of a person who is being lived by life - society to a person who lives authentically as themselves. The Anitas & Briggs be damned. They have power only as long as you, yes dear reader, you, and you specifically allow and give them power over your Behavior, Thought and Feeling Pattern. Russ is interested in how our BTF Pattern, our social role, our self concept - our ego is created and controlled. The various Janets in the novel have different BTFs. Each is a product of certain cultural assumptions about how things are suppose to be. Each character's time asserts that it's cultural assumptions are reflective and descriptive of the way the world really is. The omniscient narrator delights in demonstrating the irony, absurdity and humor in such assumptions of having God's viewpoint.

There are moments of discomfort in the novel for the reader. Frequently Russ hits a nerve - a feeling or situation that the reader too, has experienced. One of the rewards of the novel was the sharing of awareness of a Woman's viewpoint of the experience. Two of the most frequent moods and awarenesses of the novel is the ugly and limiting function of stereotyping of sex - social roles and identity. Russ again and again explores the lie that we are just our sex roles, social and economic functions. In her terms a person is not just or a Gay person - ever! That is a pigeon hole cookie - cuttered onto

CALENDAR

This is a new feature. It is part of our Classified Advertising Section. Entries for non-profit functions or non-commercial free events may be listed FREE, simply send them to us. Commercial entries may be listed at our normal classified ad rates. There are two parts to the calendar. Events that occur on a regular schedule are listed in part I. Events with special scheduling are listed in part II. Item for listing should reach us prior to our closing date. Closing for next issue is March 4th.

PART I - REGULAR

ALTERNATE COFFEEHOUSE - every Friday at MCC, 5108 Waterman, 361-7284. 7:30 pm.
CONCERNED GAY STUDENTS - every Wednesday 9:30 pm. 862-3779.

DIGNITY meetings - Every Sunday each month. P.O. Box 23093, St. Louis, Mo., 63156.

INTEGRITY meeting - 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. P.O. Box 7213, St. Louis, Mo., 63177

LUTHERAN'S CONCERNED meetings - 2nd Sunday of each month, Box 974, St. Louis, Mo., 63188.

Special Note: This feature will be expanded next issue. In the meantime, be sure to see articles in the news section for information about the Gay Pride celebration and Women's concerts.

Newstroom Gayzette Revue

COME SEE THE GRAND ILLUSION
OF MALE AND FEMALE
IMPERSONATION

Fri. & Sat. 11 p.m. to 4 a.m.
Sunday 8 p.m. to 12

5th & Missouri, E. St. Louis, Ill.

featuring
MICHELE GORDON
GLORIA HOLE
CASHMIRE
NICK DANIELS



the complex richness of the person. People become one dimensional, flat, stole, boring and finally meaningless as they become the stereotype. You cease to be yourself and become the image, the symbol, the content. For example, the plague of the macho man that is so now so fashionable from coast to coast. In appearance, language, behavior, sexual activity, ideas and culture (except macho men don't have brains, ideas or feelings other than the approved stereotypes) it is the same BTF Pattern from New York to San Francisco. Russ is correct. This is the paradox and the damnation of letting life live you. It makes you a victim, but only so long as you believe the stereotype.

The Female Man is a "thoughty" novel. In ways it's reminiscent of Thomas Berger's, the author of Little Big Man, novel, Regiment of Women. Berger gives a 380° twist to stereotypes. He has a reversal of sex stereotype roles and social - economic functions. The result is at first funny - then horrible. Although Berger is not gay - aware, he certainly makes a case for what it is like to be a non - human being - to be female. Russ, on the other hand shows what it is like if you accept conventions of Normalcy as sane, right, natural and the will of God. Then there is Janet who does not accept conventional stereotypes and who is not a victim. As Russ knows the acceptance of bondage makes the slave. The enslaving is an act, a choice of the slave. This is why Russ celebrates liberation, authentic self actualization, and the joy of being your own person - as confusing and painful as that is. All in all Russ is worth the effort. After all, one of the problems a stereotype faces is a limited viewpoint - and each of us suffers exactly from that.

DIRECTORY

This directory is to inform you of businesses and organizations available to serve the gay community. It is part of our classified advertising section, however, a basic entry consisting of name, address and phone number, in small type is FREE. If you wish to be listed simply send us the proper information. Expanded listings containing additional information about your products or services, printed in larger type, are available at our normal classified rates. All listings are subject to approval of our editorial board. To add or change a listing, write to Gaylife Magazine, Box 493, St. Louis, Mo. 63166.

BARS

CHARLIE'S LOUNGE, 6th & Delmar, 621-9624
CLEMENTINES, 2001 Menard, 664-7869
CUNARDS, 1927 S. Jefferson, 773-9946
FACES, 130 Collinsville (rear), E. St. Louis, Ill., (618) 271-3233
HERBIE'S, 1 Maryland Plaza, 361-6200
JORJA'S, 2805 Shenandoah, 776-9171
KITTY KAT CLUB, 2800 California, 776-5083
MAC'S ON THE CIRCLE, 4478 Castleman, Sun. only
MARTIN'S, 20th & Eugenia, 421-3242
MOR OR LES, 4135 S. Grand.
NEWSROOM, 5th & Missouri, E. St. Louis, Ill., (618) 874-9419
POTPOURI, McPherson & Euclid, 361-9203
SCHRADER'S, 204 N. 5th Ave., E. St. Louis, Ill.
ZEBRA ROOM, 3230 Olive, 535-1574

BATHS

CLUB ST. LOUIS, 600 N. Kingshighway, 367-3163
STADIUM BATHS, 20th & Eugenia, 421-3242

BOOKSTORES

THE BOOKSHELF, 1116 Olive, 241-3260, and 10 N. Euclid, 361-3521
DAILY PLANET NEWS, 243 N. Euclid, 367-1333
LEFT BANK BOOKS, Euclid & McPherson, 367-6731
WOMEN'S EYE, 6344 S. Rosebury, 721-1616

CHURCHES & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

AFFIRMATION/ST. LOUIS, Box 306A, St. Louis, Mo., 63166. For Methodists and their friends.
DIGNITY, Box 23093, St. Louis, Mo., 63156
A Catholic group but open to all people, services and activities.
INTEGRITY, Box 7213, St. Louis, Mo., 63177.
Episcopal's and their friends. Services and activities.
LUTHERAN'S CONCERNED, Box 974, St. Louis, Mo., 63188, services and activities.

CHURCHES & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC)
5108 Waterman, St. Louis, Mo., 63108, 361-7284. A full service Christian Church welcoming all people. Services Sunday at 11:00 am and Wednesday at 8:00 pm. Many regular activities.

COFFEEHOUSE

ALTERNATE COFFEEHOUSE, (sponsored by MCC), Every Friday night at 5108 Waterman, 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm. 361-7284

COUNSELLING

MCC COUNSELLING, free counselling service or can recommend other counselling services. 361-7284

ESCORT SERVICES

WAN-A-MAN, 428-0617

GAY A.A. OR AL-ANON

Call Jack Porter, 647-0539.

GAY OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Call MCC for information 361-7284

HOTLINES

LIFE CRISIS SERVICES (LCS), Suicide and Crisis Intervention, 868-6300.
V.D. INFORMATION AND REFERRAL, 453-3523, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Mon. thru Fri.
WOMEN'S SELF HELP CENTER, 531-2003

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Beginning next issue, this Directory will be expanded to include the entire state of Missouri and several nearby areas frequented by interstate travelers. We would like input from area not now listed, to insure our listings are complete and accurate.

CLASSIFIED

DIRECTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

ORGANIZATIONS

CONCERNED GAY STUDENTS, Box 1128, Campus Mail, Wash-
ington U. 862-3779

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, 200
Read Hall, Columbia, Mo.
65211

GAY ACADEMIC UNION, Box
4916 St. Louis 63108.

PARENTS OF GAYS, 863-2748
ST. LOUIS MEN'S PROJECT,
Box 24159, St. Louis, Mo.
63130. (Gay and non-gay)

PUBLICATIONS

MOONSTORM, Box 4201 Tower
Grove Station, St. Louis,
Mo., 63118

THE NEW LIGHT, MCC, 5108
Waterman, St. Louis 63108.

RAP GROUPS

WOMEN'S RAP, call 361-7284

RESTAURANTS

BALABAN'S, 405 N. Euclid,
361-9071

CITY COUSIN, 4111 Lindell,
535-2465.

DUFF'S, 392 N. Euclid,
361-6200.

JEFFERSON AVE. BOARDING
HOUSE, 3265 S. Jefferson,
771-0916

MAJESTIC, 4900 Laclede,
361-0211

ROOMATE SERVICE

ST. LOUIS CONNECTION,
428-0617.

THEATERS

MAPLEWOOD, 7180 Manchester,
644-2620.

TIVOLI, 6350 Delmar,
725-0220
(Both theaters frequently
show non-porn gay films)

To place a classified advertisement send
desired copy and full payment to GAYLIFE
MAGAZINE, Box 493, St. Louis, Mo., 63166.
Count each word, abbreviation or group of
numbers as one word.

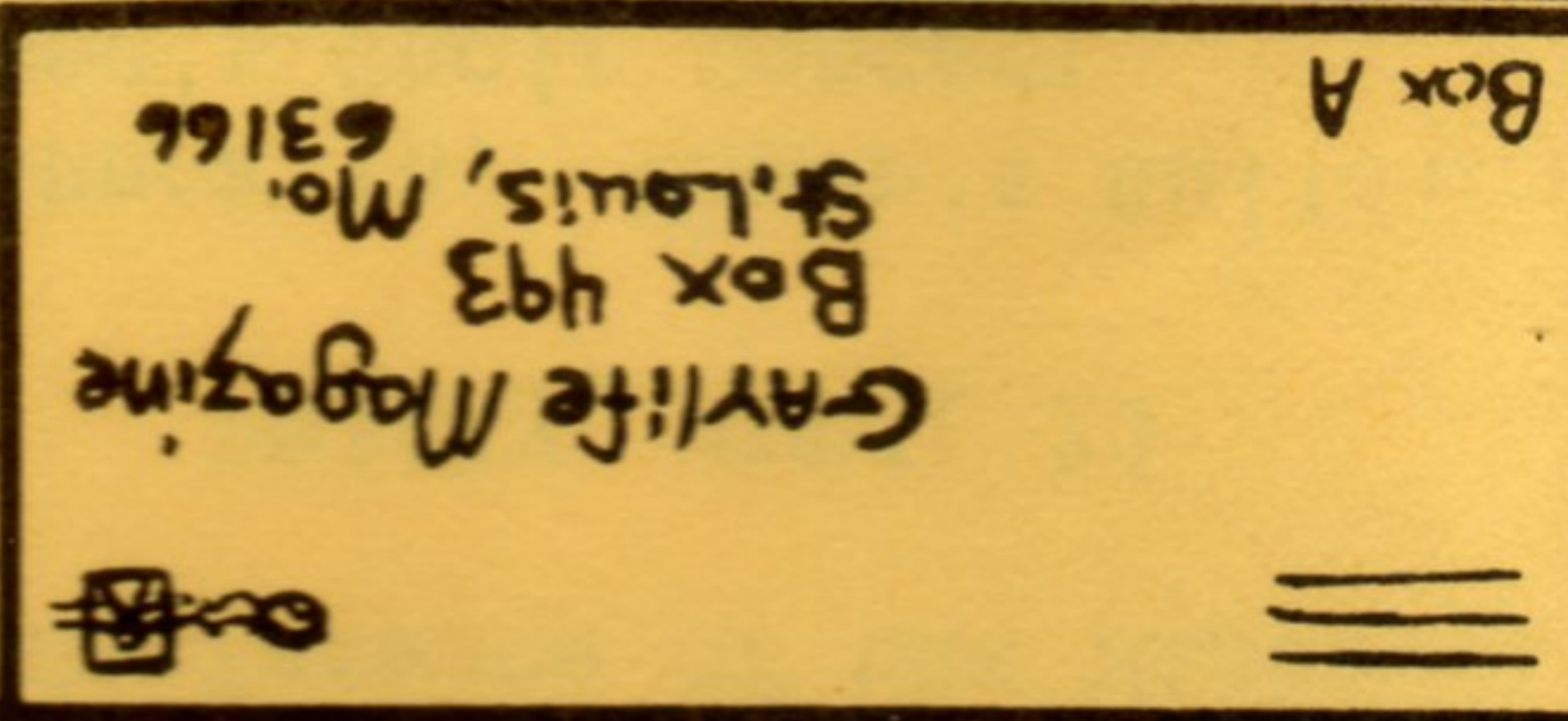
Use our COMMERCIAL rate when advertising
any commercial business, service or pro-
duct. Minimum \$3.00 for up to 20 words,
thereafter 15¢ per word.

Use our REGULAR rate when advertising
for personal reasons or offering one-of-
a-kind items for sale. Minimum \$2.00 for
up to 20 words, thereafter 10¢ per word.

Those with current subscriptions or non-
profit organizations, use our SUBSCRIBER
rate instead of the Regular rate. Min-
imum \$1.60 for up to 20 words, thereafter
8¢ per word.

See also CALENDAR or DIRECTORY for addi-
tional Classified Advertising information.
Box Numbers are available upon request.
Rental is \$2.50 for one year. Mail for-
warding is \$1.00 per month or you may make
other arrangements to pick-up your mail.

When answering a Box Number Ad, place the
box number in the lower left corner as
illustrated below.



ROOM MATES WANTED

YOUNG MALE to share two
bedroom home with same
in south county area.
Rent negotiable. Gay-
Life Box J.

PERSONAL

I AM interested in meet-
ing anyone who likes
movies, quiet dinners,
hiking, camping, trips
to nearby cities and
historical sites, and
discussions on current
events. Also interested
in companionship, af-
fection and whatever
other adult fun that may
develop. Call 966-6176
after 6 pm.
KARATE INSTRUCTOR wanted
to teach basic self-de-
fense to gay men. Gay-
Life Box B.

PERSONAL

JOGGERS - Overland/St.
John area - let's get
together for late even-
ing runs. A small in-
formal club to help each
other would be nice.
Write Gaylife Box D.

MATURE GENTLEMAN would
like to meet queen with
similar interests, books,
classical & jazz music,
painting, old houses,
fishing and gardening.
I have a lovely fur
coat for the right
person. Gaylife Box K.

W/M, 24, just moved to
St. Louis, would like to
meet others, 18-25, for
friendship or possible
relationship. If inter-
ested call 367-7296.

17 YEAR OLD male resid-
ing in West County Area
seeking friends for
companionship. Write to
Gaylife, Box F.

LOVERS 25 & 30 would like
to meet a buddy our age
or younger (over 18) for
friendship, good social
times, travel and 3-ways.
Must enjoy GPK passive.
Beginners and other
couples OK too. Write
with photo if possible
to: BRAD, Box 12811, St.
Louis, Mo., 63141. Hurry!

ARE YOU a Gay graduate
of University City High
School, circa 1966? If
so, by all means write
Rick Rosen, 315 S. 15th
St., Phila., Pa., 19102

CONCERNED GAY STUDENTS OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY S.L.

PRESENT

GAY - PRIDE

-Weekend

April 20 21 22 '79

This weekend is our celebration of being Gay (and courageous) in the Midwest! Held in conjunction with the Quarterly Conference of the Missouri Coalition for Human Rights, the exciting agenda includes:

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Registration and Check-In, Women's Building Basement, WU (4-11 p.m.)
Shuttle to the Women's Choir Concert
The Fantastic Flick: **OUTRAGEOUS!!** (8 p.m.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

A Series of Relevant and Stimulating Workshops:
Parents of Gays
Coming Out and Beyond
Gay Militance
Consciousness Raising
Lesbian Separatism
Chemical Abuse
and much much more...
No Gay Pride Celebration would be complete without a . . . (9-? p.m.)

Twelve

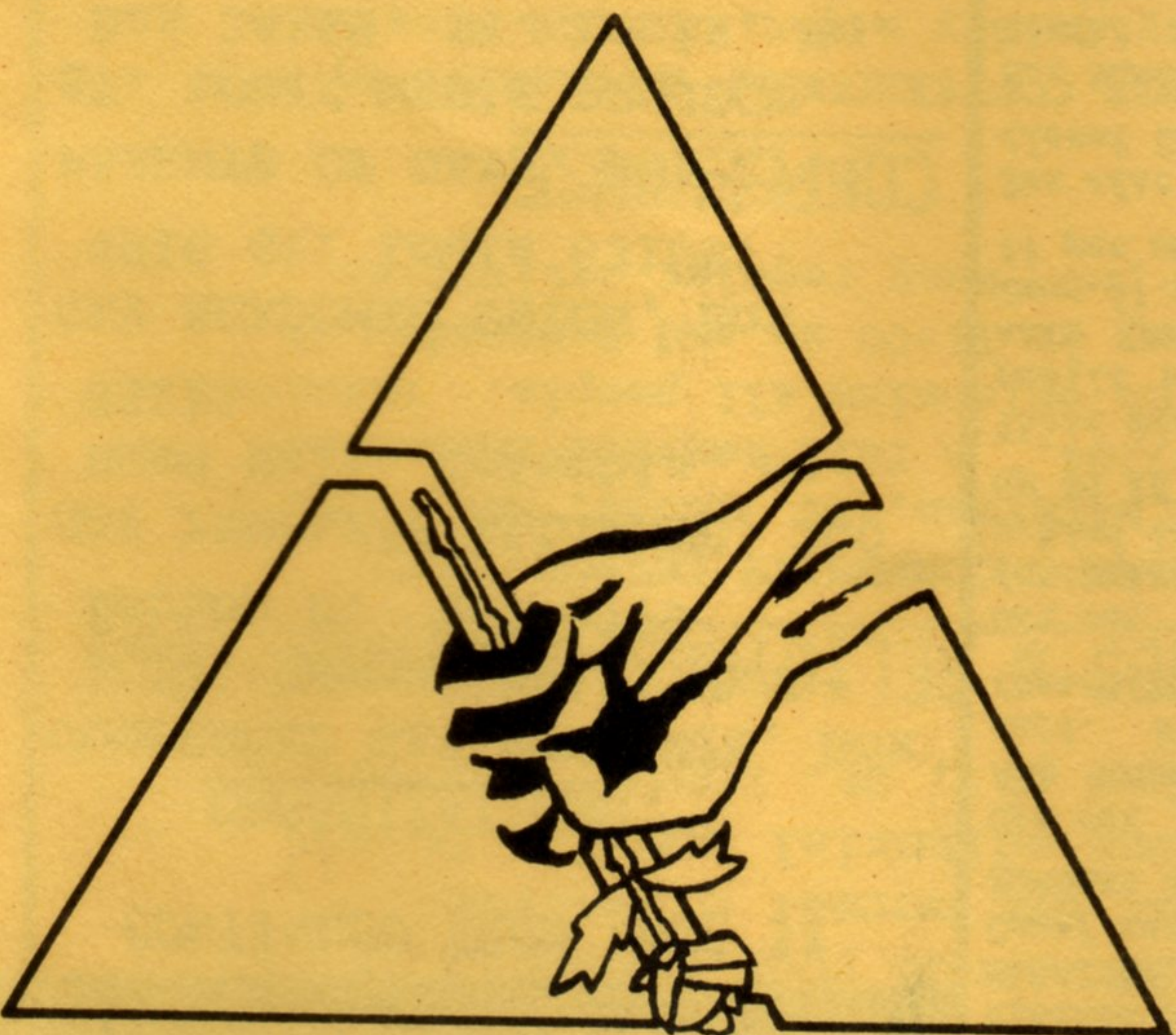
Transportation to the Chris Williamson Concert

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

MCHR Board Meeting
Ecumenical Service
(10 a.m.)
(1 p.m.)

Housing is available, bring your sleeping bag. Registration donation for the entire Conference is \$7.00. Tickets will be available at registration on Friday and throughout the weekend in the Women's Building. To reserve tickets by mail, make checks payable to Concerned Gay Students, Box 1128, Washington University, 63130.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LOOK FOR OUR POSTERS EVERYONE WELCOME



CCS